

MANAGING EDITOR / DESIGNER

Fraser Mutch

MUSIC EDITOR

Alice Blenkinsop

INTERVIEWS

Rich Alt-Girl Botherer

MODELS

Samantha Bentley - www.twitter.com/TheBadBentley
Aniston - www.twitter.com/Itsalldangerous
Amanda Ellen - www.twitter.com/AmandaEllen_SGH
Nancy Trash - www.twitter.com/nancytrash
Charlotte Something - www.twitter.com/Char_Something
Alice Brookes - www.twitter.com/AliceeBrookees
Heffy - www.twitter.com/heffyx
Sunny Suicide - www.twitter.com/sunnyholiday3
Cookie Suicide - www.twitter.com/CookieBoggino
Liryc Suicide - www.twitter.com/LirycSuicide
Betti Dooley - www.twitter.com/bettidooley
Mimi Cee - www.instagram.com/mimi_c
Ally Jane - www.instagram.com/iamallyjane
El Enya - www.instagram.com/el_enya
Charlii Smith - www.twitter.com/charliismith_

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Tripodski - www.twitter.com/Tripodski
Chris Beasley - www.twitter.com/ChrisBeas_Photo
Alice Blenkinsop - www.twitter.com/alice_elitemag
Mike White - www.twitter.com/MikeWhitePhotog
ATOM - www.instagram.com/atom_creative
KL - www.twitter.com/smthingaboutkl
Lana Parker - www.twitter.com/Larrnarr

COVER CONTRIBUTORS

Charlotte Something - www.twitter.com/Char_Something Tripodski - www.twitter.com/Tripodski

MUSIC CONTRIBUTORS

Kris Aarre
Oli Duncanson
Joshua Clarke
Robert Burns
Grace Chapman-Duke
Robert Tilbury
Alex Irons
Kristofer Billingham
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ISSUE 80

CHARLOTTE SOMETHING

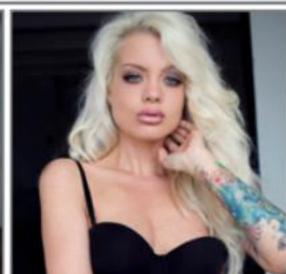


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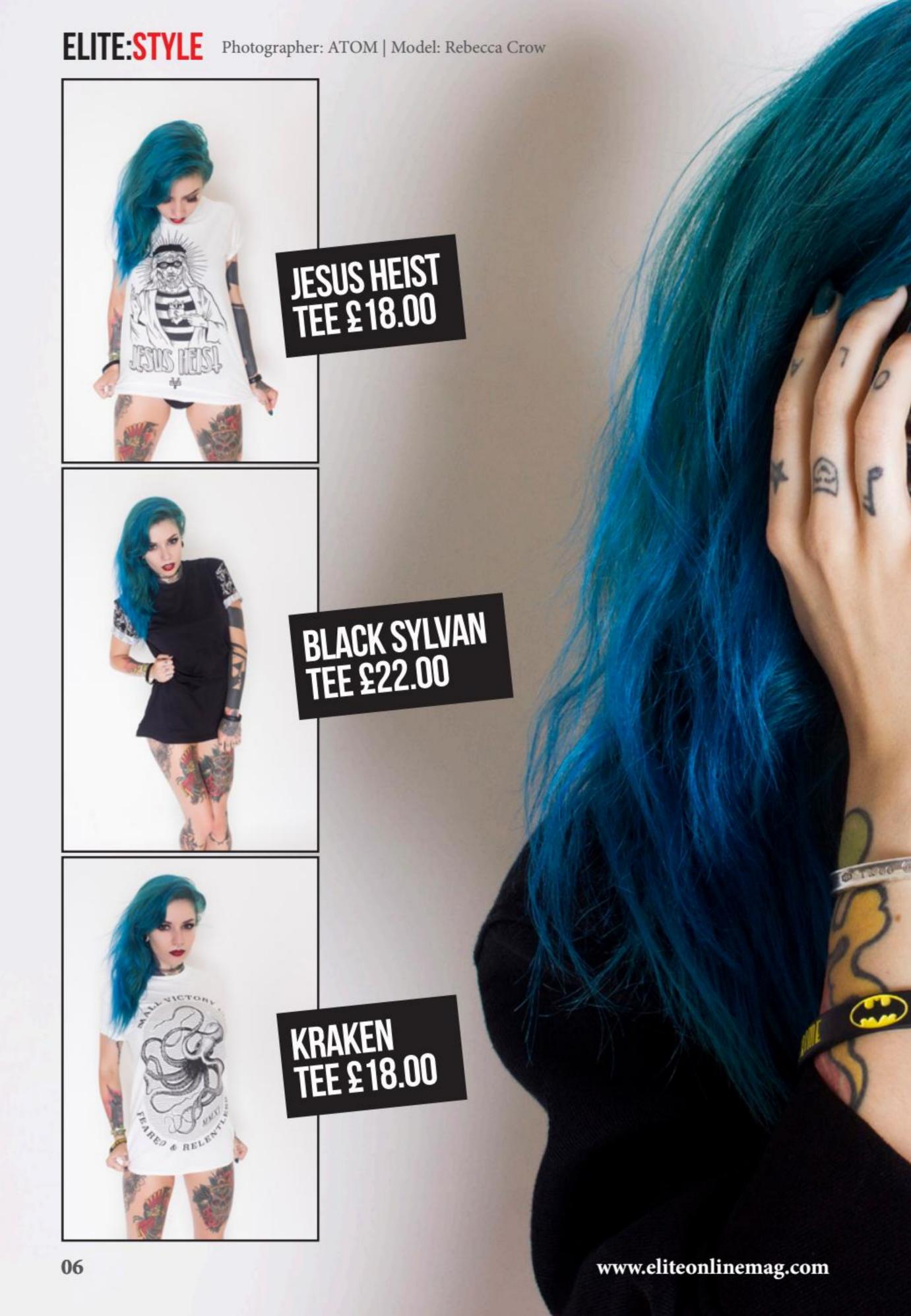


















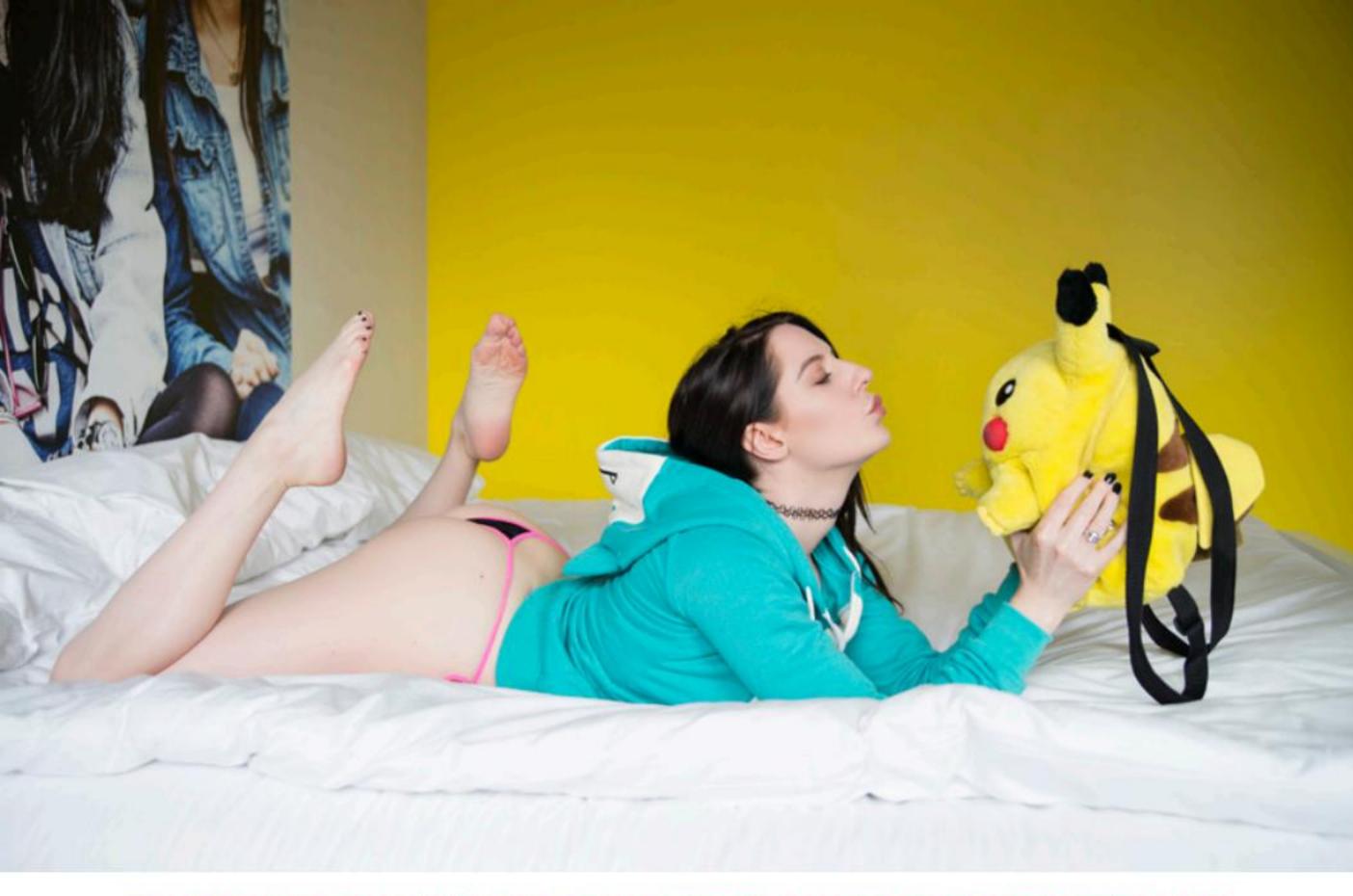












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FINALLY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE ELITE READERS? IF YOU LOVE ME, CHECK OUT MY MIXES SOUNDCLOUD. ME, SAMANTHA-BENTLEY AND FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM/SNAPCHAT/TWITTER @THEBADBENTLEY ON ALL.









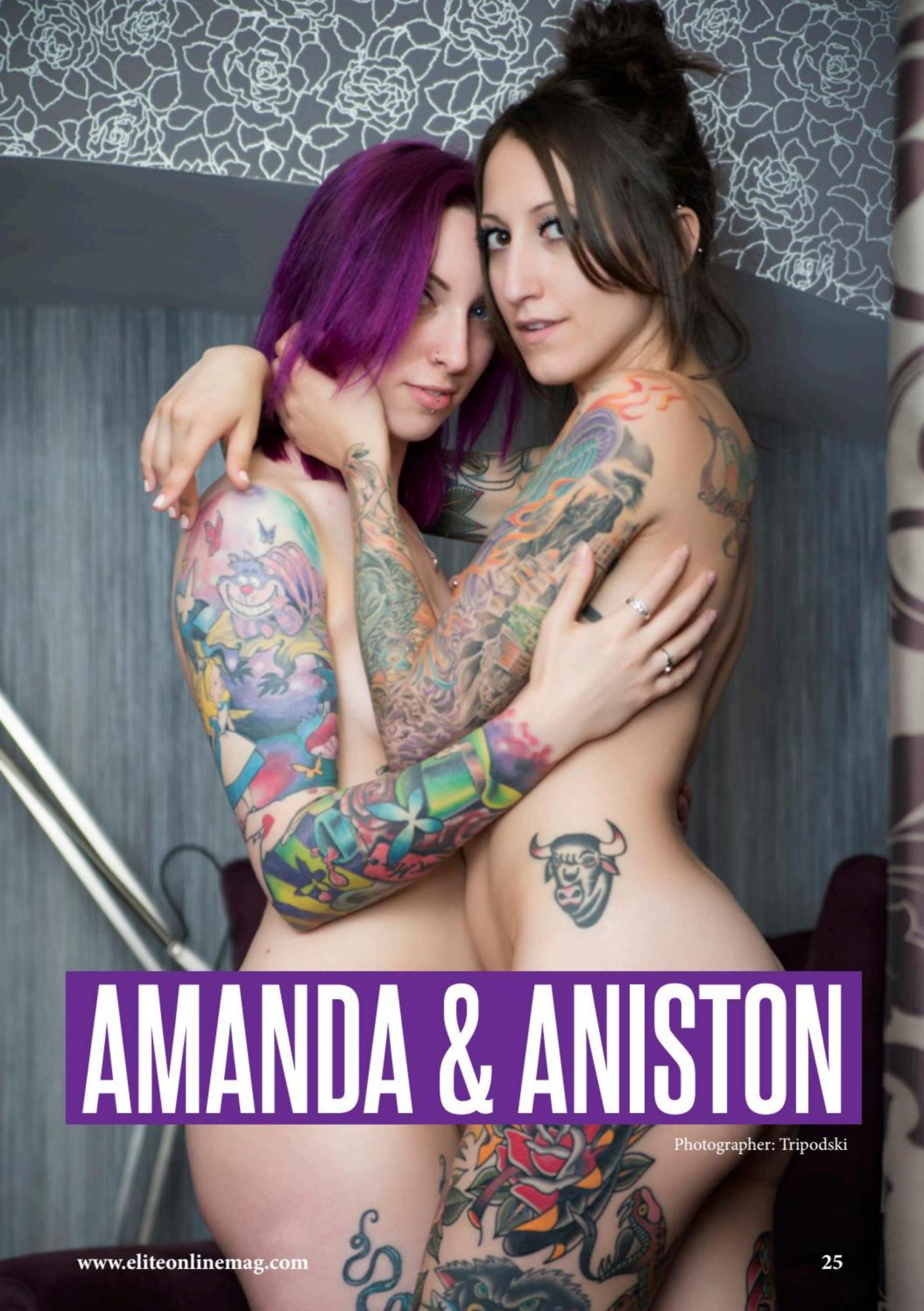




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Photographer: Tripodski

Hi Amanda, welcome to Elite! How did you enjoy the shoot? Hey, I loved it! It was so much fun working with everyone, it was hilarious. Everyone was so easy to get on with and it was such a relaxed environment. Good tunes and loads of laughing.

What was it like to work with Tripodski on this shoot? Great, as always. I've worked with him before and he never fails to dissapoint. He's a kind and wonderful guy and always gives great results. Always happy to travel to Newcastle to see him, he's a true gentleman.

What was it like to work with Aniston? I adore her! She's such a sweetheart and a great model. I learned a lot from her and I'm so happy I got to meet her considering we're usually half a world apart.

What's Aniston's best feature? What ISN'T her best feature?! Her whole body! I just want to wear her skin, she's so beautiful! If I had to pick one thing, probably her cute butt.



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What's your best feature? Hmm... I quite like my butt, I work quite hard on it and I'm learning to love all the other parts of myself. As a lame answer, Id say my eyes as they get most of the attention when I'm clothed.

What was the funniest thing to happen at the shoot? Probably the editors wonderful rendition of Beautiful by James Blunt sang throughout. I kept cracking up so I can guarentee a lot of awful pictures of me mid laugh or pulling some horrendous face.

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? Eating! I have an addiction to peanut butter and cinnamon buns (not at the same time). I can not stop eating them. I will go out of my way to get some or just bake some if I have too. I also enjoy fitness and workout a lot, but eating trumps the gym.

So how can a guy impress you? A few things impress me like extensive knowledge of the Marvel universe or the Star Wars universe or the Harry Potter universe. I can get on board with really intense knowledge on those things or just having the same views on certain subjects that can be talked about for hours. But if you're looking for a way to my heart, it's always food.

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far? With out a doubt Rebecca Crow. She is my favourite model EVERY year. I adore her.

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Hi Aniston, welcome to Elite!
How did you enjoy the shoot?
I had a blast! It was so great
to finally work with Elite and
Tripodski!

What was it like to work with Tripodski on this shoot? He was great! He has such a great energy as a photographer. When you're getting naked you want to be around people who are positive. Plus, he was cracking jokes, posing and singing, and so props to him for livening things up!

What was it like to work with Amanda? She's amazing. Such a sweetheart and a total babe.

What's Amanda's best feature? Amanda's eyes are killer. They pierce your soul.

What's your best feature? My best feature? Ah, I'm so shy! But, I'd say my legs.

What was the funniest thing to happen at the shoot? Tripodski almost had a shoot in the shower. He was showing us some poses he had in mind. He was killin' it.

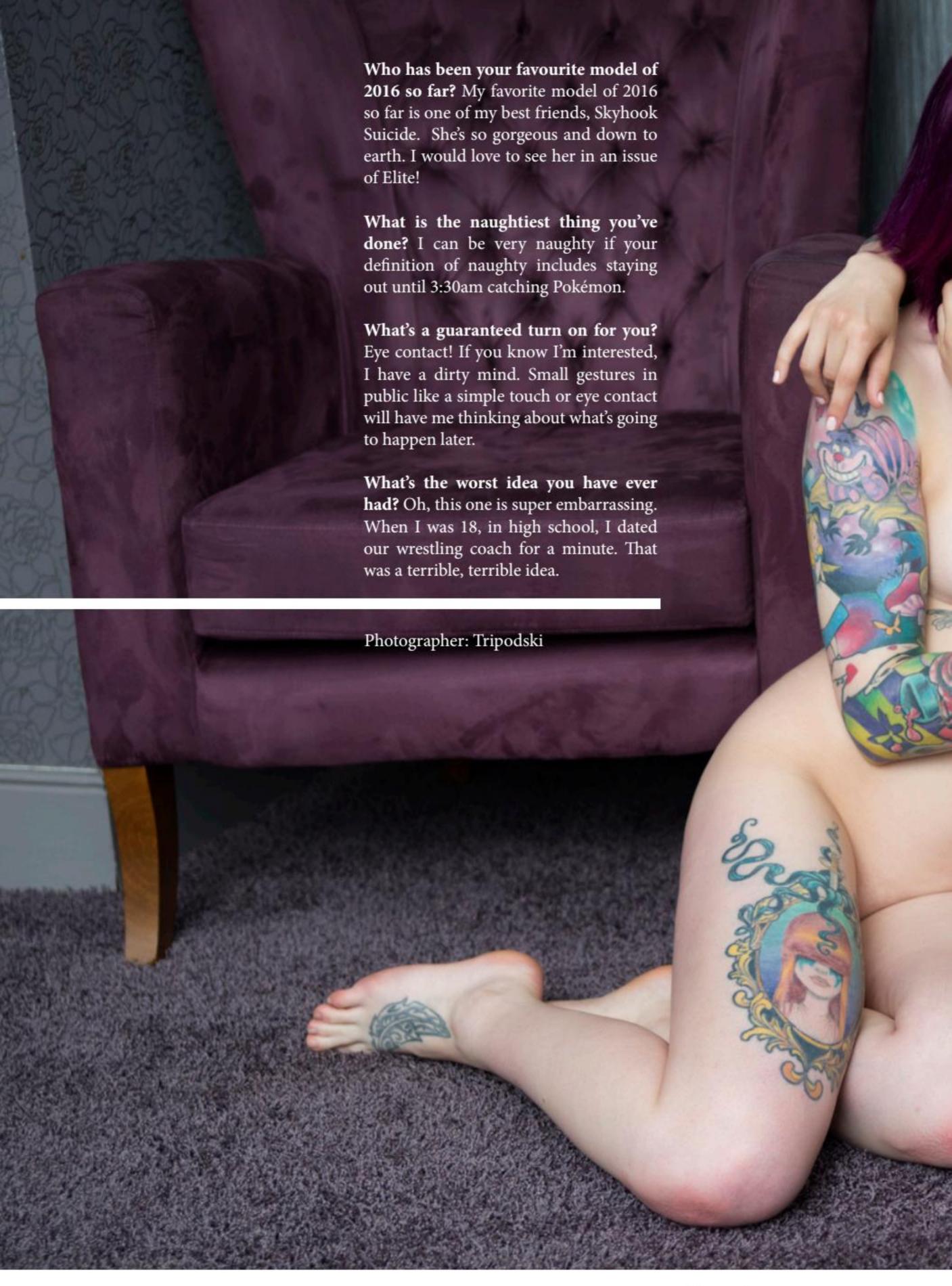
Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? I'm passionate about art and literature. I read like crazy and write short fiction/poetry.

So how can a guy impress you?

A guy can impress me by being genuine. So many people reach out and try to get with women by saying whatever it is they think we want to hear. Tell me some embarrassing dark shit about you that's real, and I'm in. Or buy me donuts.

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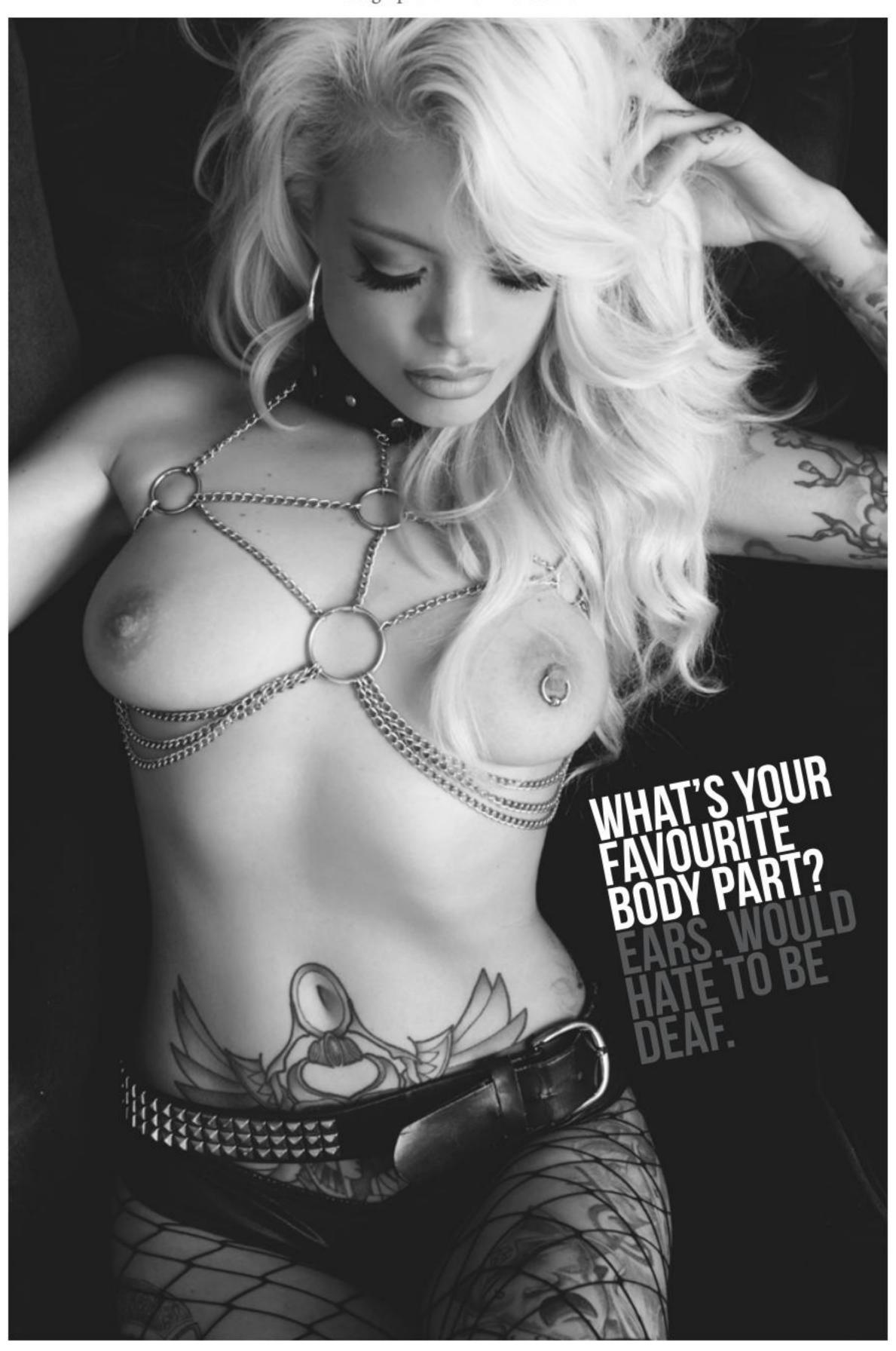






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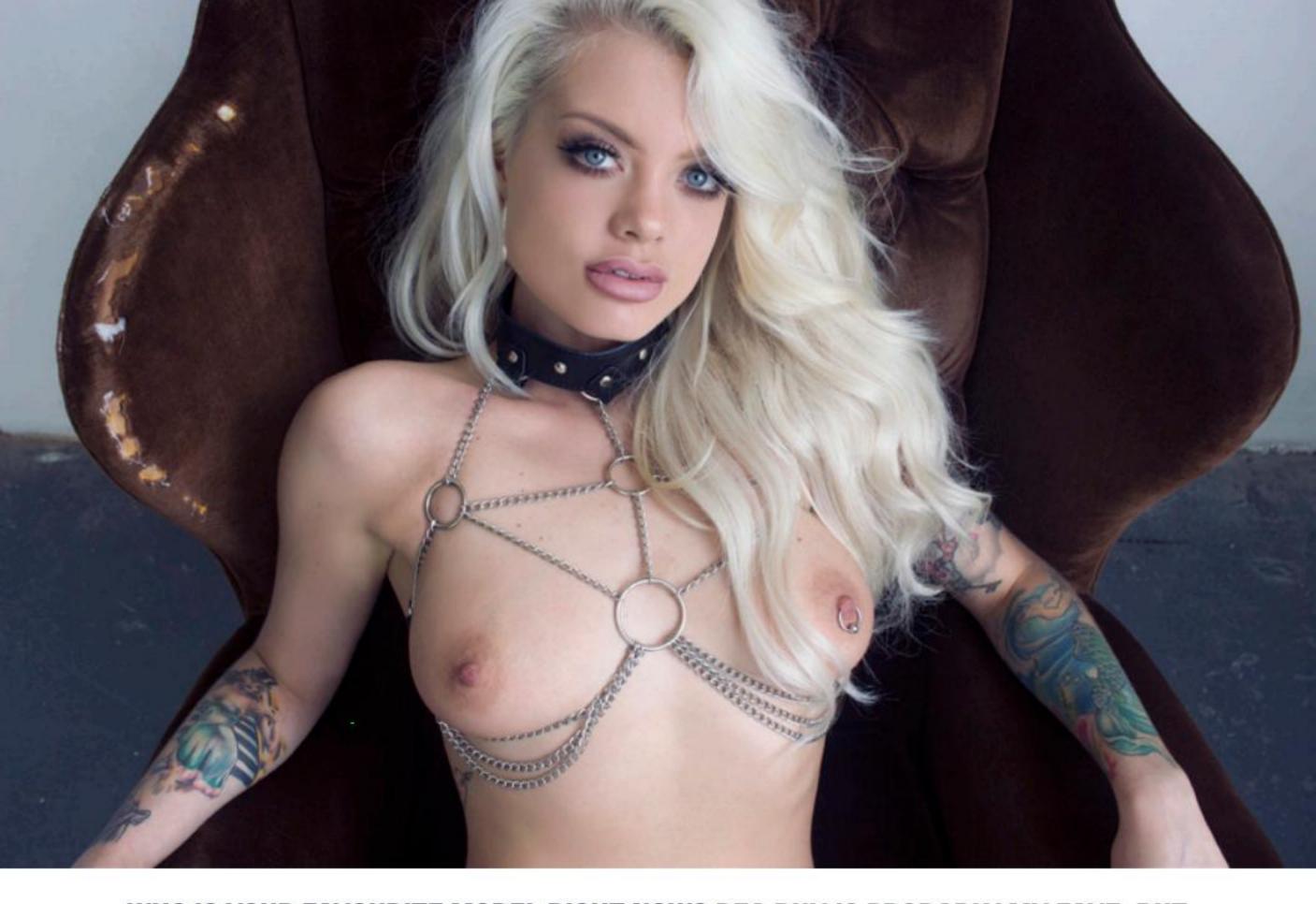












WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE MODEL RIGHT NOW? BEA DUX IS PROBABLY MY FAVE. BUT THEN THERE'S LAUREN BROCK, TYLAH, JENNY MILLER.. ARGH SO MANY BABES!







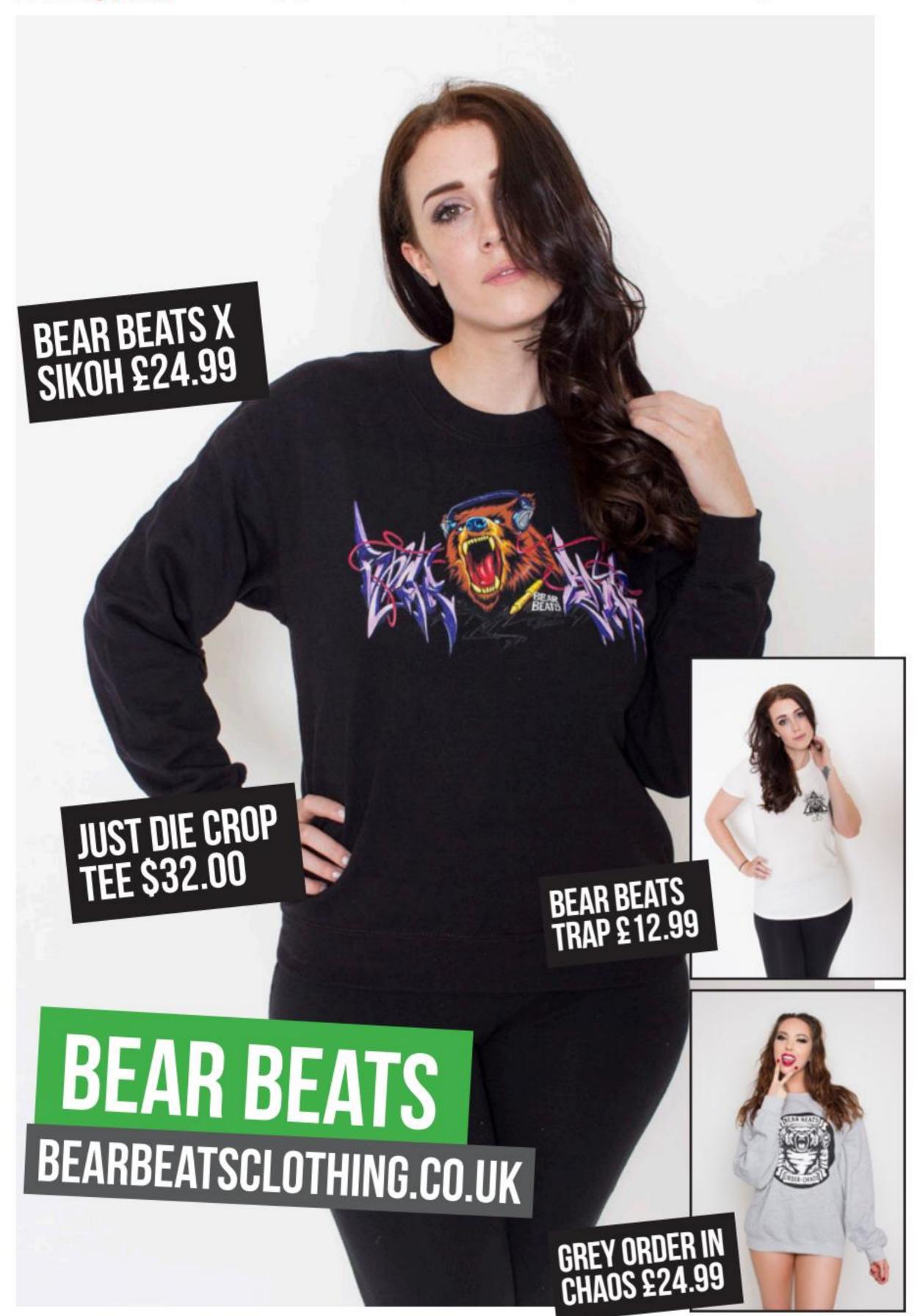
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Welcome Charlotte, how are you? I am excellent, thank you for asking.

Seriously though, we're so thrilled to have you in Elite again Charlotte. Did you have fun shooting for us? I always have fun shooting for Elite. Thank you for having me back.

What is like to grace our cover for the 4th time? It's 4th time? Wow! That's pretty incredible.

You always seem so effortless on camera, is it hard reinventing yourself for new features? Yes I'd say so. I don't shoot as much as I used to anymore and sometimes I feel like I've forgotten how to do it. But you guys make me feel so at ease. It's easy to get into the swing of things when you're relaxed and having fun.

What is the most British thing you do? I drink a lot of tea and I love a good chinwag about the weather.

You are without a doubt one of the most beautiful people we have met! Have you always thought you wanted to model or did it just happen? It's a bit of a weird one. I did want to be a model when I was younger, mostly because models always looked so beautiful and I was often called ugly in school. I wanted to prove them all wrong. I figured it would boost my confidence too.

Something you wear with aplomb is your tattoos. We bet you are starting to put together quite a collection. What is your favourite piece? It's hard to pick just one. They're all a little bit special to me in their own way. My newest addition is the one on my shin of my cats. It was really painful but totally worth it. I love my cats so much and the tattoo is absolutely purrrfect.











You are a bit of a cosplay queen now. Where do you find the inspiration for it all and what's been your favourite so far? I get inspired by pretty much everything. Whether it's a comic or a film/TV character. I've lost count how many times I've seen a character I like and said I want to cosplay as them. I think my favourite by far has to be my Ripley cosplay. She's such a classic badass woman. I love her.

It was clear from your feature you have a great figure! Where does that come from? Do you have to work for it or is it just good jeans/genes? I work out on occasion. I used to be really into fitness. I did athletics in my teens and competed for my county. But I've let myself go a bit lately. I still do a bit of cardio mixed with some squats and crunches though. The butt is genetics though I think.

Someone once asked me to describe "gorgeous" in one word and I said Charlotte. You're a definite icon of just general amazingness too. Do you see yourself as a cool person? I don't really think of myself as being really cool. I'm just me.

What are your favourite memories from your amazing modelling career so far? Obviously all the awesome shoots for Elite. But also the opportunities to travel to the states. I thought something like that would never happen. I've been 4 times in last few years now. I still can't really believe it. It's been incredible.



Photographer: Tripodski

WHAT'S NEXT FOR CHARLOTTE? I'VE FINISHED UNI NOW SO I'M GOING TO BE FOCUSING A LOT ON MY ILLUSTRATION WORK AND DOING MORE COSPLAYS. I LOVE BEING CREATIVE.

Inspiration is important to you, be it music, film or books. What is inspiring you at the moment? Vikings and Norse mythology.

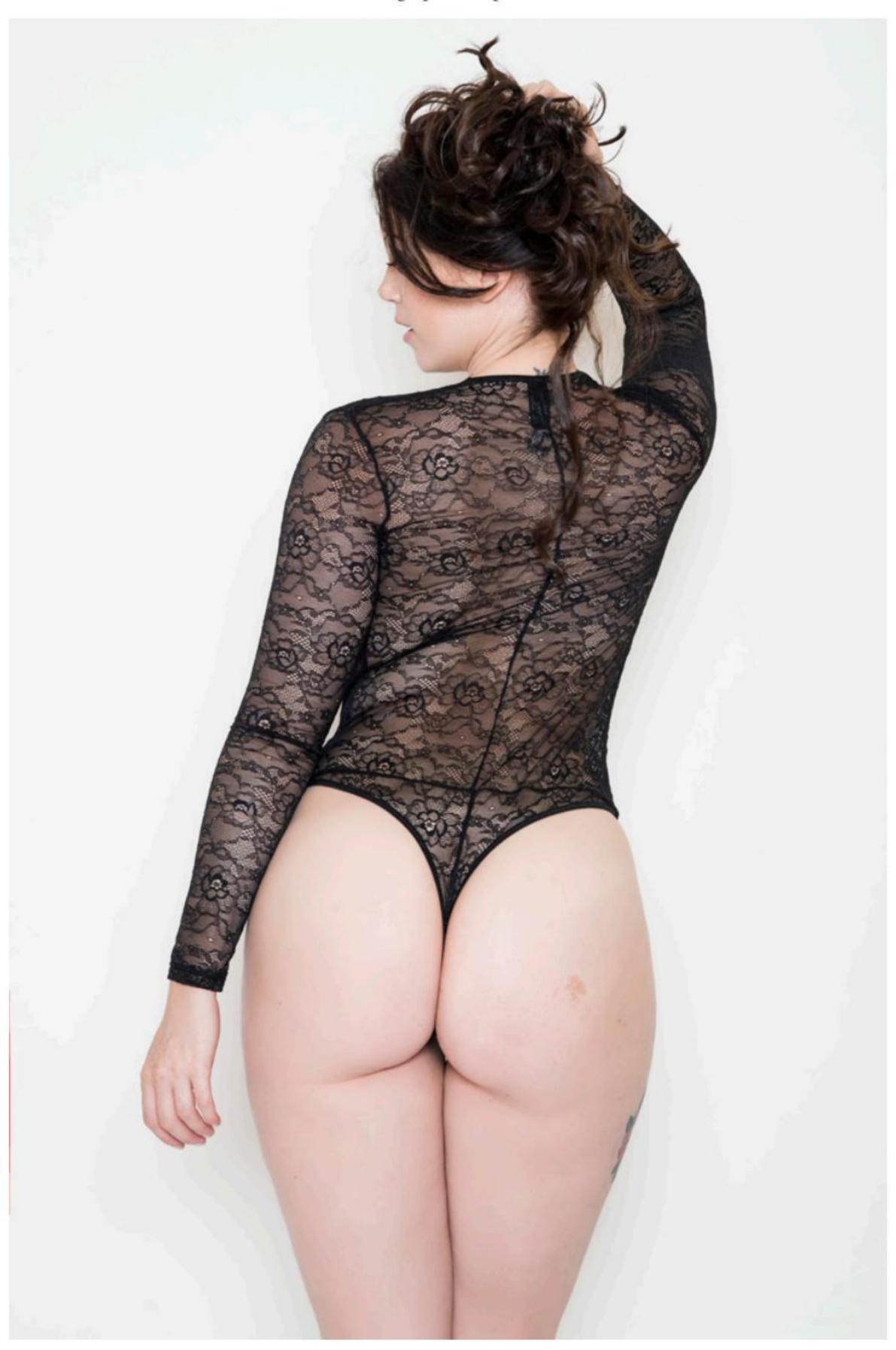
Are you a homebird or someone that prefers a night on the town? I'm definitely a homebird. Although if you asked me that 4 years ago it would've been a whole different story.

It's been a pleasure Charlotte. What are you up to after this interview is done? Sleep. It's way past my bed time.

Have you got a message for your masses of fans and our lovely Elite readers? Thank you so much for checking out my feature. You're amazing.









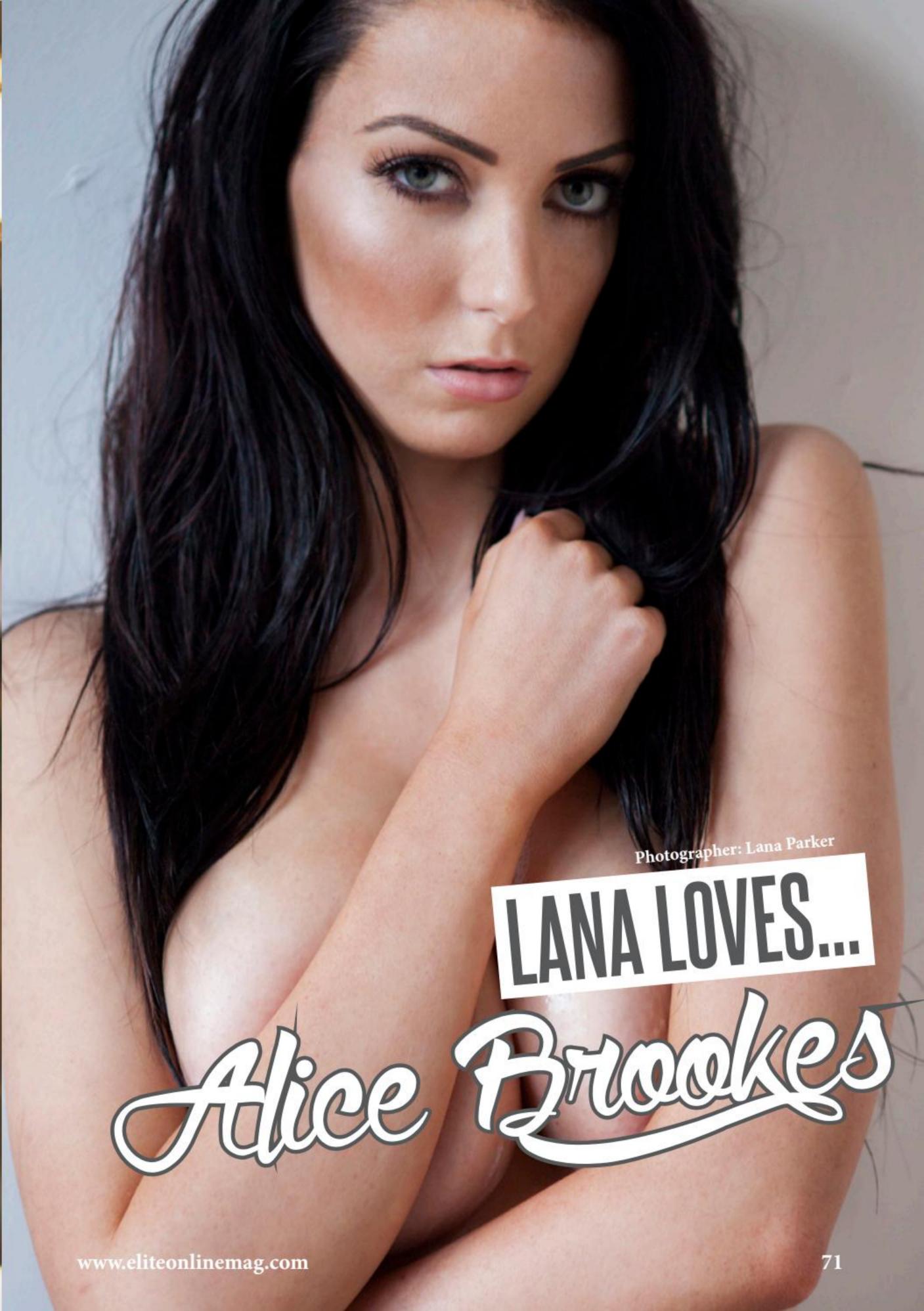














Photographer: Lana Parker

HEY ALICE WELCOME TO ELITE, TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF: I'M GINGER AND I HAVE GG BOOBS. HELLO! ALTHOUGH MY HAIR IS ACTUALLY BLACK IN THESE PICS HAHA.

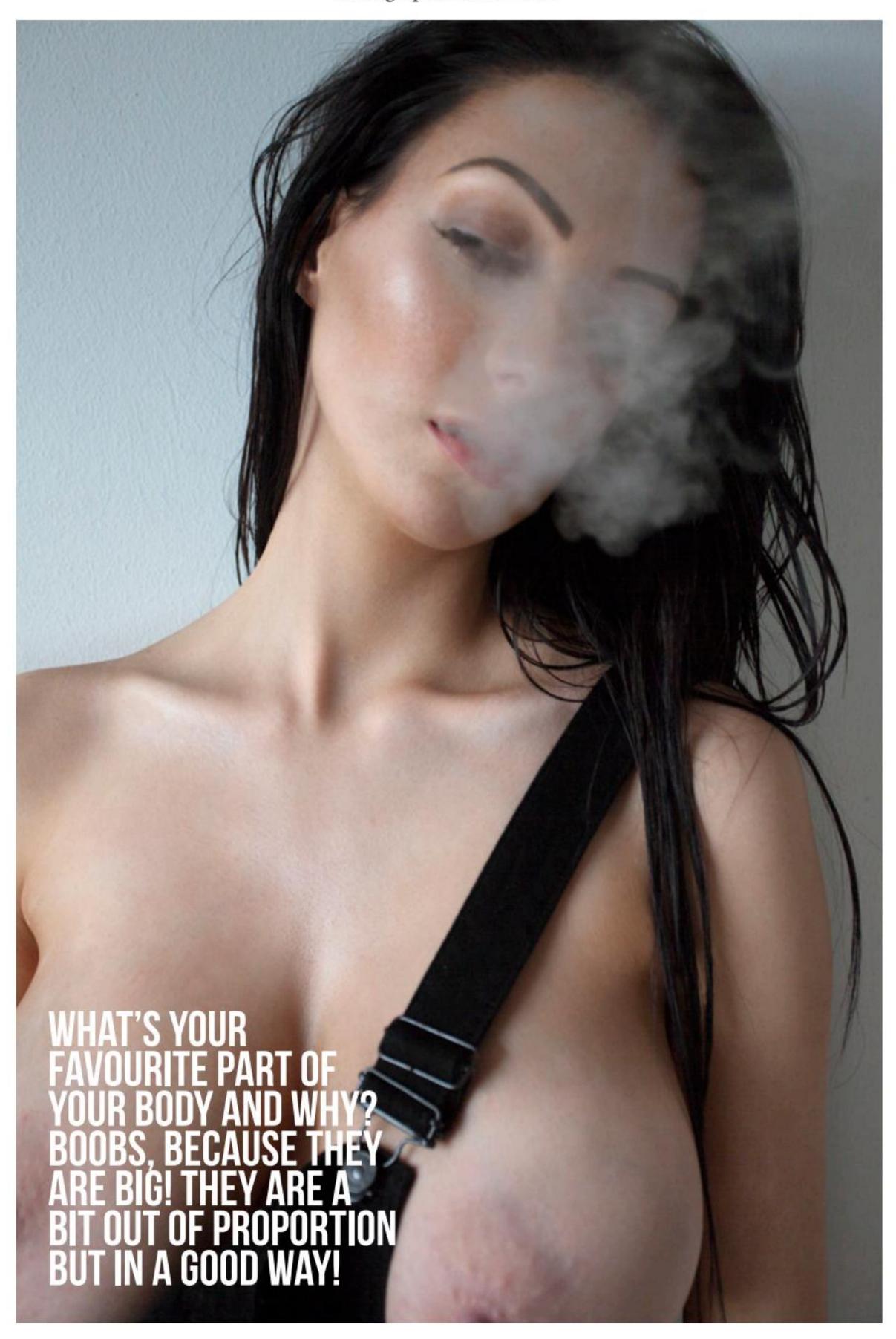
What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? This was my test shoot for Girl Management so it was a big deal for me! I was so nervous! Lana made me feel super comfortable, apart from when she made me chuck freezing water all over myself! The pictures look good though so it was worth it. I must like torture because now me and Lana are really good friends!

What was your favourite part of the shoot? Meeting Lana! We are now so close, I don't know what I would do without her now!

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? Some days I'm a 6, first thing in the morning I'm a 2. When I'm hungover I'm minus 10. Haha!

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? Probably like Anne Summers. I love sexy underwear so that would be perfect. Or maybe Playboy!

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Jennifer Anniston, Lucy Pinder, Michelle Megan and me! I'm not a celeb but I wouldn't mind rolling a round with them in jelly!

















Hey Heffy! Welcome to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hey guys, it's been a while hasn't it?! Well I'm Heffy, I'm 25 and pretty obsessed with pizza and dogs. If I'm not being really boring watching Netflix I own a hair salon and tattoo studio. This was where we actually shot and it's super fun!

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? I love Chris so it was super fun! We always have a laugh and it's great to catch up. Also you can guarantee the images are always going to be wicked!

What was your favourite part of the shoot? Having a catch up with the guys and hanging with some absolute babes of cause!

What's your favourite part of your body and why? I think my eyes... as boring as it sounds! They're big and green!

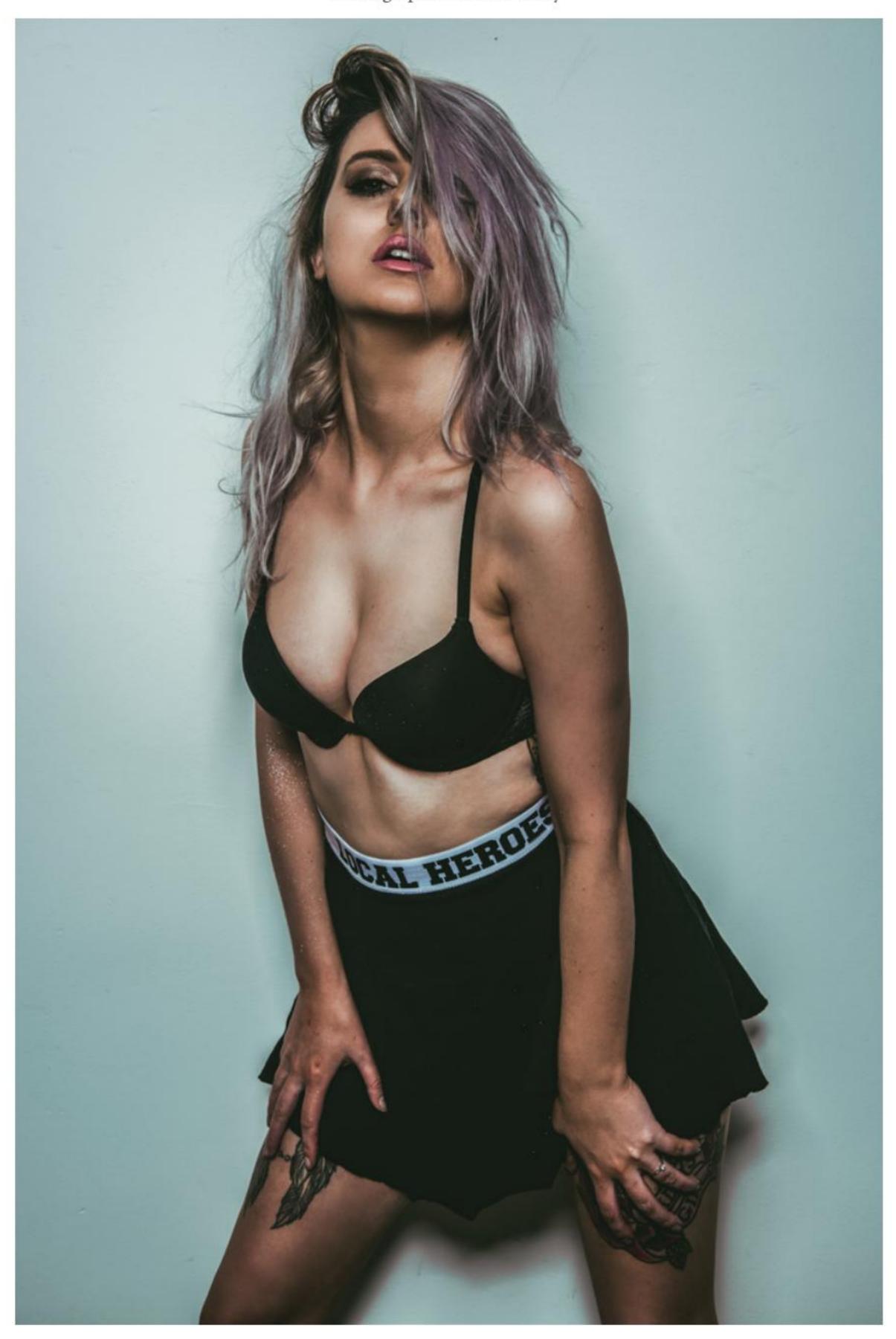
On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? That's the worst question ever, I don't even know... 4.5 maybe haha.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? Gosh! To be honest I have been lucky to work with some amazing brands, photographers and bands, but it's always going to be Elite as my number 1, as I get to hang with the best dudes.

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? I literally know nothing about celebs as there is nobody I follow. So I will give you my model dream team. Danika Daisy, Eden Anastacia, Jade Fenix and Romanie Smith are all the stuff dreams are made off!

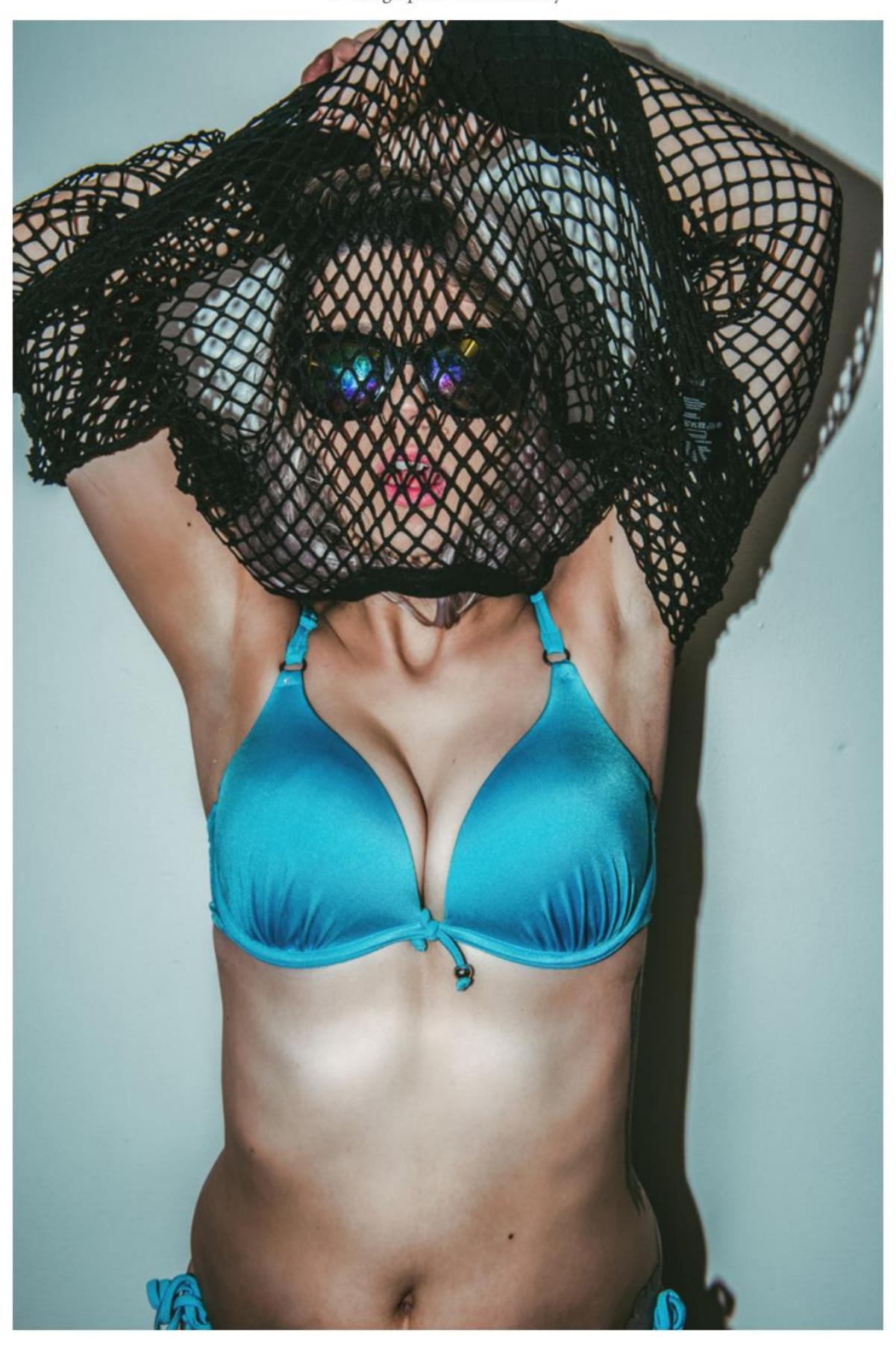
What's your favourite song currently? The Weeknd - Loft Music, that guy has the sexiest voice.

































Hi Sunny, welcome to Elite! How did you enjoy the shoot? I had such a blast at my shoot! Working with Elite is certainly cheeky fun in more ways than one!

What was it like to work with Tripodski on this shoot? Working with Tripodski was fun because we got to just sing our favourite songs! His eye behind the camera is incredible and after seeing his work I knew that I was going to walk away having shot something I've never shot before. SO excited for you all to see our set that we shot for Suicidegirls too!

What was it like to work with Cookie & Liryc? I have the pleasure of working with these mega babes on a consistent basis therefore I already knew walking in to the shoot that it would be a bootyful day filled with inappropriate and ridiculous humour as well as serious eye candy.

What's Cookie & Liryc's's best feature? It's so difficult to decide as these ladies are so gorgeous inside and out. They share two of my favourite features in women and that is that not only do they have the most stunning natural beauty but the pair of them have the two best bums the Blackheart Burlesque has ever presented in twerk fashion.

What's your best feature? I am a little shy about my own body believe it or not, but traveling with fierce ladies makes me blush daily. According to most people my waist and booty are my best features haha!

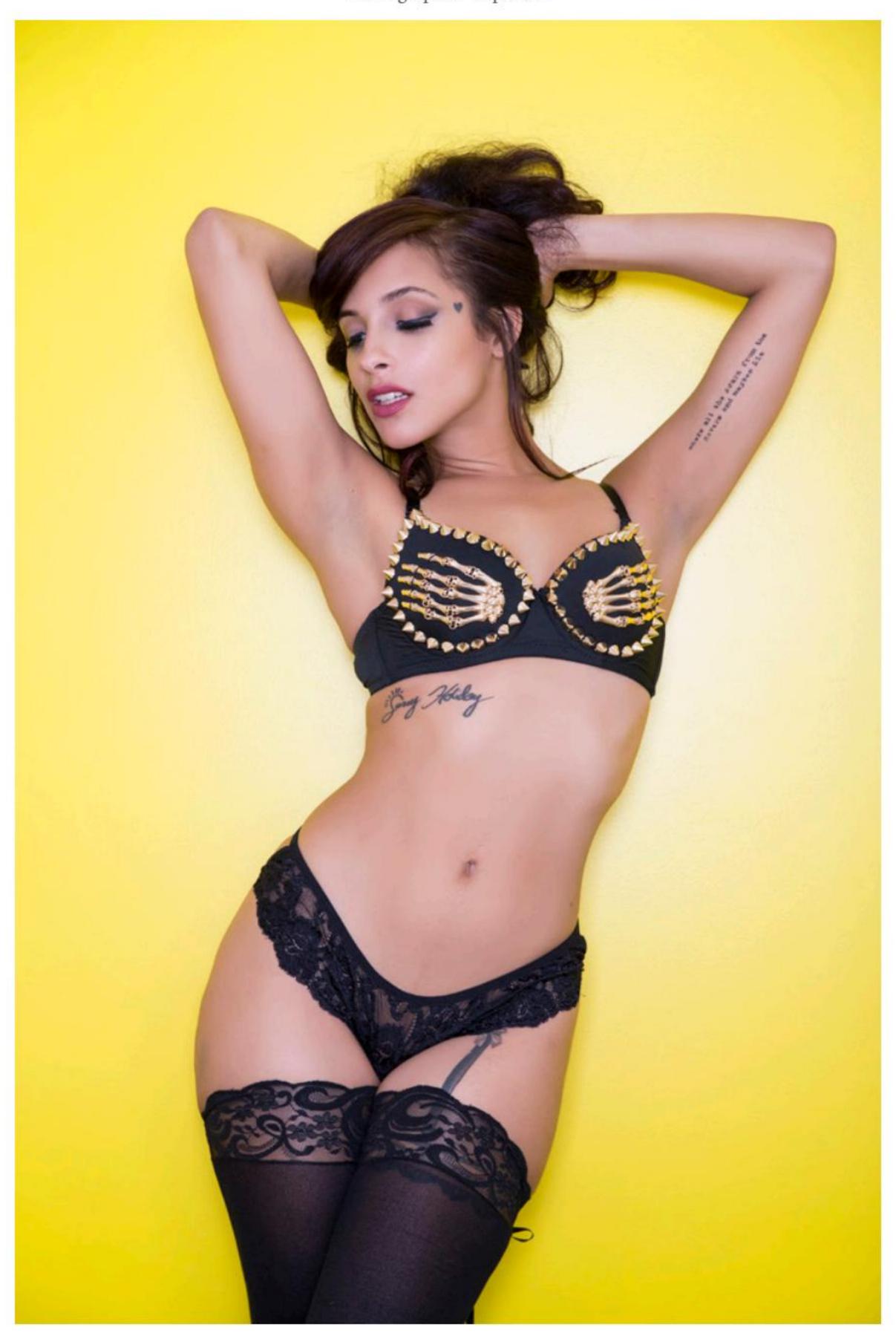
What is the naughtiest thing you've done? A girl shall not kiss & tell...;)

So how can a guy impress you? He can be a gentleman and take me out to a strip club and let me be the one to enjoy the eye candy and tip the talented babes!











FINALLY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE ELITE READERS? THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CHECKING OUT MY BABES AND I! TO SEE US LIVE AND IN PERSON MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT BLACKHEARTBURLESQUE.COM! WE WILL BE IN GERMANY THIS NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER AND OUR DATES FOR OUR ALL NEW US TOUR ARE ALREADY UP!











What's Liryc & Sunny's best feature? Liryc's face... those big eyes, lips, freckles, skin tone, STUNNING! And Sunny's smile and voice, I will never get tired of that awesome voice of hers. Both of them have huge and beautiful asses too.

What's your best feature? My chest, I really like that I can see my veins all over it.

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? I'm a dancer. I've been dancing since I was

4 years old. It's something that I will do until I die.

So how can a guy impress you? Making me smile and laugh... a lot.

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far? I really like what Rebecca Crow is doing right now.

What is the naughtiest thing you've done? I masturbated for an hour in the bathroom of a friend.







FINALLY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE ELITE READERS? HOPE YOU ALL LIKE MY PICTURES, IT WAS A PLEASURE TO ME TO BE IN THIS AMAZING MAGAZINE. IT WAS REALLY SUPER FUN AND I HOPE TO BE IN IT AGAIN SOON, I'M VERY READY FOR MORE ADVENTURES WITH TEAM ELITE.

Hi Liryc, welcome to Elite!
What was it like to work with
Tripodski on this shoot? Hey!
Tripodski was lots of fun to work
with and super comfortable to
be around. I enjoyed singing old
90's jams while shooting!

What was it like to work with Sunny & Cookie? I tour all the time with Sunny and Cookie, they are like sisters to me so I enjoyed being behind a camera with them once again.

What's Sunny & Cookie's best feature? Sunny's best feature in my opinion, is her amazing butt! Cookie's best feature would be her beautiful face!

What's your best feature? I think my best feature would happen to be my butt as well.

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? I love to model, but I also have strong passions for dancing! Dancing will forever be number 1 in my heart!

So how can a guy impress you? Unless your gay man with
fabulous clothes, it's hard to
impress me being a man... I'm a
lesbian.

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far? My favourite model of 2016 is Venom Suicide, she's so exquisite and every photo feels like it has a story to it!

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? A guaranteed turn on for me would be someone who is confident and has life goals.

Beards - Yes or No? I would have to say no to beards because I date women and that would be weird.





Photographer: Tripodski

















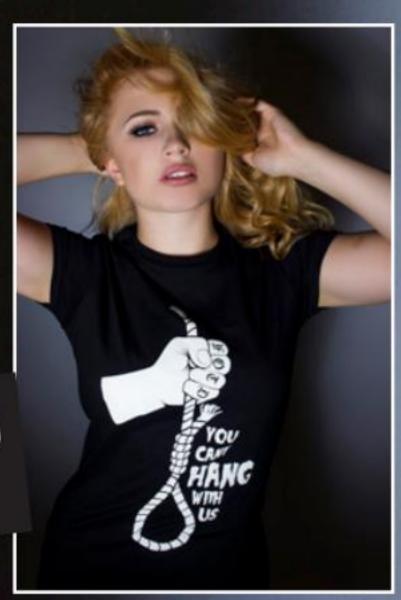






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BEI BIOLEY

So Betti, Did you enjoy your shoot for Elite? Of course! I always have the most fun being my silly self... dancing, singing and being a general monkey. I only really shoot what feels like myself now - by capturing different parts of my personality. Elite allows me to be as much of a weirdo as I want and i have a blast on set.

You live near Middlesborough - does this mean you are the best looking person ever from there? That's cute! Although we do have a lot of beauties there, with a lot of personality. Mainly pretty fierce, but super lush.

Tell us something people won't know: Well, I guess the first thing I'd show someone to freak them out are my fingers. I'm hypermobile, but my fingers do some freaky witchy things and bend really far back. But really the main thing is that I practice a lot of happiness and self-love. Nothing makes me smile more than making people happy, but I'd be so content living with bare minimum, a beaut natural environment and other lush happy souls. Except I'm a bit of a LOTR nerd.. so I'd need something to watch that on and read on the reg.

If you can travel anywhere else in the world, where would it be and why? I'm pretty crazily well traveled as my parents are wandering souls too... but right now I'd have to say somewhere in Brazil. I love the lust for life they seem to have, and I wanna go dancing in streets at carnivals! My favourite thing is immersing myself into different cultures.

You are an amazing singer... what's your favourite song and why haven't we seen you on our tele box?? Ah thank you! Singing makes me so happy, so it comes natural for me to sing all the time without realising. I'm actually pretty excited that I've been given a lot of sweet opportunities lately, collaborating with some really talented people.. eep! Maybe, soon! Ah man I love so many... as it's sunny today, my favourite right now would be D'Yer Maker by Led Zeppelin.















Ok standard interview question here... you are allowed to have dinner with 3 people... one has to be dead, one has to be alive and one has to be someone you want to exist but doesn't... who d you invite? Okay... dead would be Frida Kahlo. She's been an inspiration for me since I was tiny, she's so bright and beautiful and bold. Alive, I'd have to say Regina Spektor as she seems like the most interesting person through her lyrics and little quirks in her songs! Lastly, someone who doesn't exist... this is a tough one as I live for imagination, but I'm gonna go with tree trunks Adventure from Time. She's my favourite, she's so creepily cute aha, but I also reckon she'd make some sweet dessert.

Looking through your Facebook page, it seems as if you're life's just art, fun times and singing... this a fair assumption? I guess so yes! I've seemed to have surrounded myself with the best, lovely people and I love every part of it. I believe we choose our happiness and I have chosen it for sure! My days now are full of colour and weird adventures, thrown in with the occasional horror film still...









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Hey Mimi! Welcome back to Elite, tell us what have you been up to since we last saw you? Hey! It's been a while hasn't it! I've kinda somehow ended up being a student and moving to London. I work for an amazing tattoo studio here, @lowridertattoolondon they're insanely good. I got my back and bum done here by @ jadechanelp you guys should have a look at them.

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? Aww Mike White is my favourite, he rescued me from "drownload" 2015 when my whole tent was full of water and he let me crash in his already overpopulated hotel room, but yeah this shoot was particularly fun as it was my first one with blonde hair and my new back piece.

What was your favourite part of the shoot? All the snacks obviously. That's been a running theme on our shoots together, just all the snacks. He just gets me haha.

What's your favourite part of your body and why? Oh god this is a tough one, hmm I guess if I had to choose it would be my bug eyes!

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? I guess that's up to literally anyone else but me to decide and I'm not so keen on numbering myself so I'll just go with human. I am precisely human attractive.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? Elite obvs;)











What's your favourite currently? song Bukowski by Moose Blood. It's just forever stuck in my head. That or If I can be greedy and choose many it would be The Guardians of the Galaxy soundtrack. There is no possible way to be in a bad mood if you put that on.

Describe your perfect photoshoot: Snacks. I mean provide me snacks and I'm pretty happy generally.

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? Portion control. Snack life is the best life!

What do you like most about Elite? All the hot girlies you guys feature.









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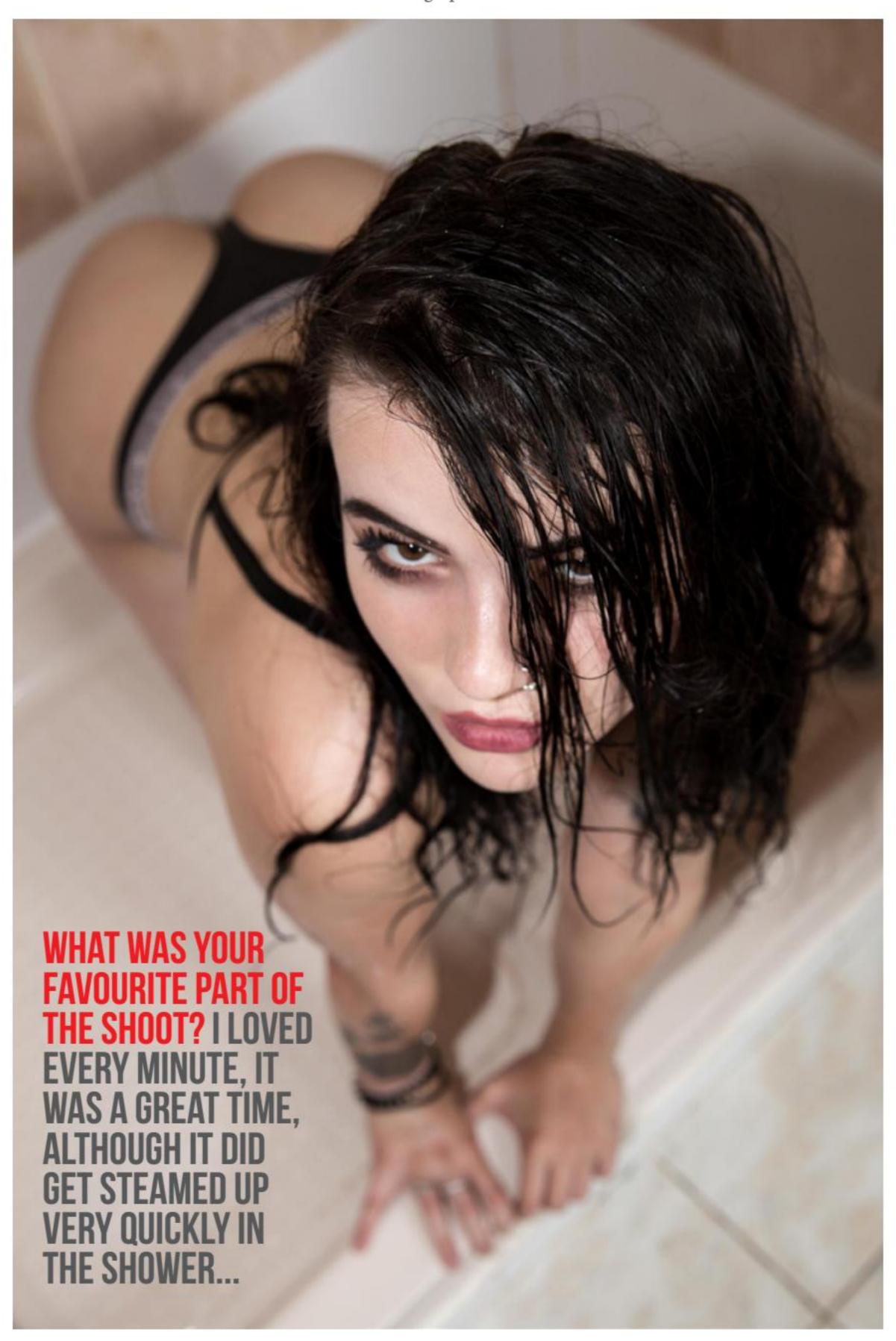
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WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ELITE? ALL THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS YOU FEATURE.













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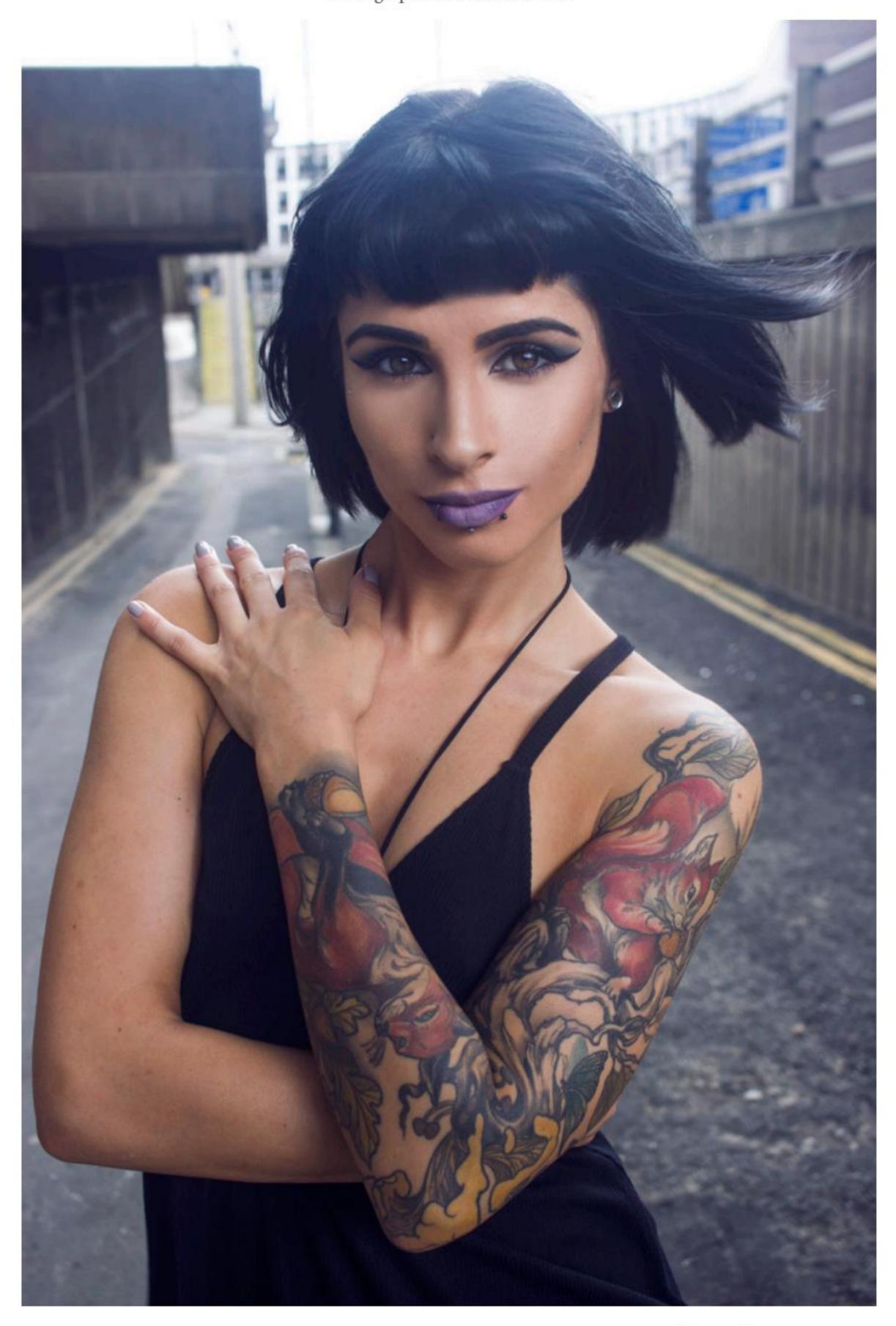


So El, did you enjoy your shoot for Elite? Always! It's always such a laugh with Elite, I always know I'm going to love the shots we get and it's such a relaxed atmosphere. I love how there's so many brands to choose from to shoot in. I feel us models are always spoilt for choice, so thanks Elite!

From your name you sound like this gothic latina princess, but in real life you are one of the most geordie people ever. Do you ever get people being surprised when they see you speak? Haha! Yeah sometimes they do! Especially when I was living in Leeds, people beforehand would either think I'd have a Spanish accent or a Yorkshire one. Then I'd open my mouth and they'd be like.."Eh? Where are you from?!?"









If you can travel anywhere else in the world, where would it be and why? Honestly, back to Hollywood, LA. That place felt like home, I loved the constant sunshine and heat. I loved the vibe, the people and the bars like Loaded & the famous Rainbow Bar & Grill. Last time I was out there me and my mate hired a convertible Mustang and I can't tell you how amazing that was to drive down the Sunset Strip.

You are a bit of a legend when shooting as you're a machine... what's your favourite you have shot? Who is your favourite model right now? Wowza, this is a hard one but honestly it's one of my shots by Tripodski from my first Hopeful Suicide Girls set, which is actually due out in about a week! So keep your eyes peeled, I'll be sure to share the shot.

You are stranded on an island and you have the choice to request 1 item for a day, 1 item for a week and 1 item for a month... what would they be? The item for a week would have to be my double staff's, I really need to get some good practicing in with those so I'd hammer that. My month item would need to be music, Spotify... my phone? Haha. Yeah I'd need music to keep me sane, especially if I was alone. My day item would be FAJITAS, endless fajitas for a day, every other day I'd manage searching for other food, just give me the endless fajitas.

Looking through your Facebook page, it seems as if you're life's just selfies and partying... this a fair assumption? I have a really busy life, I have 3 jobs so sometimes I feel like I never stop but I honestly wouldn't have it any other way. It's not always partying at all but because I'm a performer and DJ. I definitely get my fair share of going to wicked festivals, events and the club night I DJ at, which is RISE Newcastle every Saturday.







WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BODY PART? A WEIRD ONE, BUT PROBABLY MY ARMS. HA!

















Hey Charlii! Welcome to Elite, tell us a what was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? Hey Elite! Both photographers absolutely smashed it, such lovely, funny people:-)

What was your favourite part of the shoot? The banter between us all! But still working hard to achieve the images.

What's your favourite part of your body and why? Any part with tattoos on :D

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? I wouldn't be modelling if I thought I was ugly, but nobody's perfect, I'd give me a 7.5.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? I'd love to work for gym King or siksilk... Massive companies and my kinda clothing!

What's your favourite song currently? Tom Zanetti - Funky Town.

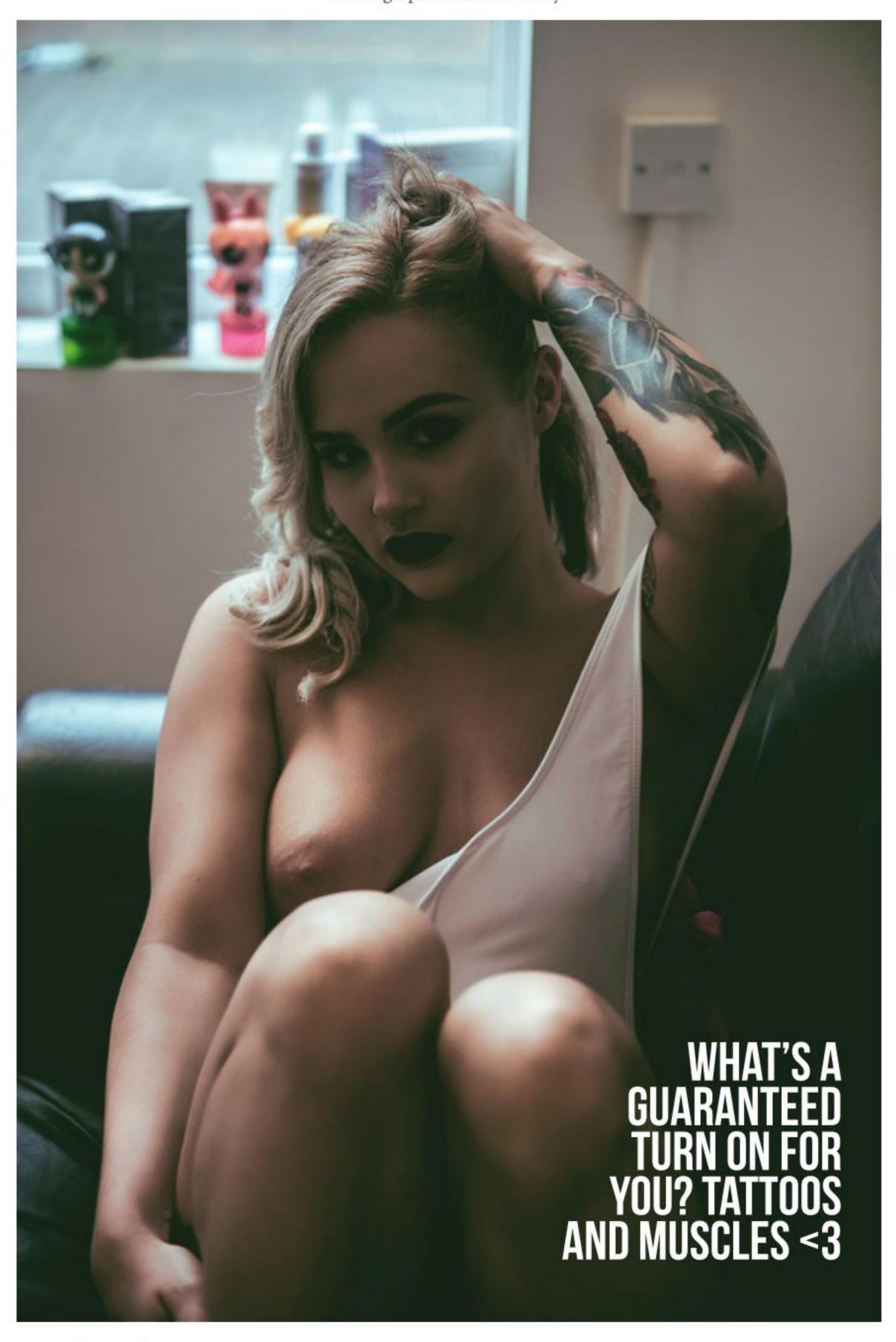
What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? You can be anything you want to be :D

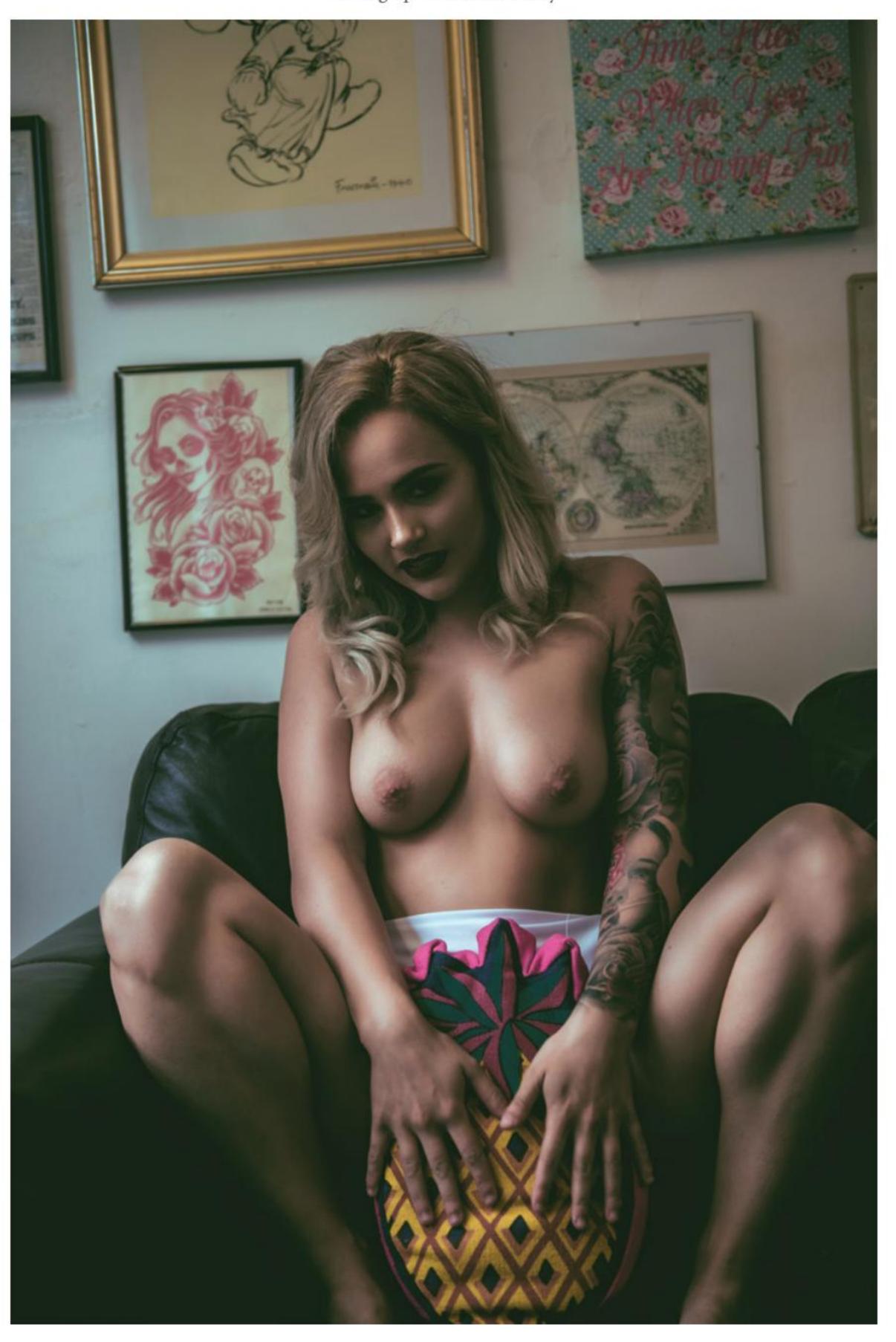
Describe your perfect photoshoot: All my shoots are perfect, I would never put myself in a position where I feel uncomfortable.

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? Luck! I eat soooooo much crap haha.

What do you like most about Elite? Everyone has tattoos and banter :D









BUTSERFEST

Butserfest is an annual festival held at Butser Hill in the beautiful countryside of Queen Elizabeth Country Park. The usually idyllic setting was somewhat dampened (literally) by a torrential downpour early on which continued throughout the day, but the joviality of the festival goers, and the obvious competence of the festival organisers ensured that a wonderful day was had by all attending.

The first band we managed to catch was Faultlines. A quality dual vocal attack from the two singers and a watertight band left us eager to check out more from this band. A fantastic Warped tour-ish metalcore band oozing professionality and catchy songwriting. Lots of potential.

The worst of the rain passed over as we were waiting for Zoax to hit the main stage. Frontman Adam Carroll captivated the audience by running into the audience mid set, becoming a nucleus of energy by stealing items of clothing off fans and forcing them to dance. Intimidating, friendly and interesting are three words we would use to describe this singer, but this isn't to take away from the rest of the band who were sonically on point.

Back to the Crossroads stage tent for a bit of Post-Hardcore laden with emotion. The droney ambience and interesting drum beats were the highlight of their performance. It's clear that intense emotion is a key part of their music and some of this was lost through lack of projection throughout the tent, but nevertheless the set was solid and has peaked our interest for their new record later this month.

Our Hollow Our Home hit the main stage. This band reminded us of a lot of Rise records, mis-classified metalcore bands, as they are neither particularly metal or hardcore. The thing that separates this band from all of those, was the vocal performance of Connor Hallisey. Disgusting, bowl tightening low screams were everything we needed to keep us watching them in the, now light, rain.

Rap metal is a concise way to describe the next band we caught. The One Hundred. They played to the biggest crowd so far in the Crossroads stage tent. People spilling out the side, the band packed a real punch with the vocal work of Jacob Field demonstrating talent ranging from heavy screaming through to rapping. The band teased some new material at this show and it's left us excited for their next release.



BUTSER HILL, HAMPSHIRE 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016













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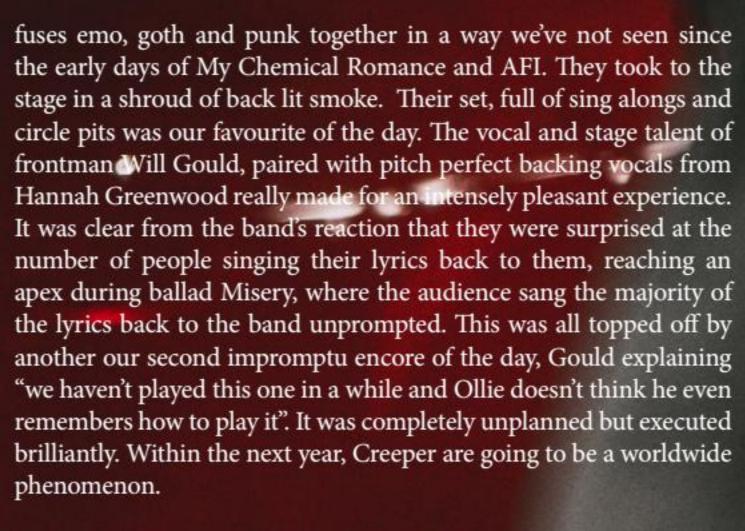
Following on from their full band set earlier, Casey pitched up at a, now dry, acoustic shack; a makeshift barn enclosing a hay bale auditorium, with exclusive access to competition winners. At the beginning of the set, the band looked nervous and out of their comfort zone, but with a little positive reception from the audience, they confidently played touching drawn back renditions of a few of their tracks. Fans of the band were so captivated by this curve ball set that the band was coerced into an impromptu encore with an unprepared song that was fantastically heartfelt.

Blood Youth up next at the Crossroads stage. Merging hardcore riffs and vocals, with catchy choruses, the band keep the attention of a hugely varied crowd. Perhaps the most varied of the day, ranging from very young girls to men in their late twenties all moshing happily together for a full 30 minutes. Blood Youth are one of the best examples we have in the UK for accessibility to heavier music for an uneducated audience, displaying technical proficiency, cohesion and overall musical talent. An impressive set from a band we aren't too familiar with but hopefully in the future we will be singing along with their catchy as hell choruses.

Onto our only attendance at the introducing stage all day. This stage had to be relocated to the acoustic shack due to technical difficulties caused by the hellish weather earlier in the day. High Down seemed to have a huge local following with their merchandise being worn by many of the attendees. High Down are a brand new pop punk band from the south coast, who boasted strong memorable songwriting for a band so young in the scene. On top of this they appear to have a very professional approach to stage performance, fully engaging the audience from start to finish. Definitely ones to look out for in the future if you're into the likes of Neck Deep, New Found Glory and State champs.

Crossroads stage headliners Creeper have gained a lot of mysterious notoriety recently from an immersive, engaging PR campaign involving the band going missing, a possible murder mystery and the utilisation of modern technology to captivate their fans. The band





Finishing off the day, headliners Mallory Knox tore up the main stage with their brand of inoffensive pop-rock. Mallory Knox are Butserfest veterans with 3 appearances over the years and it's clear that a large majority of the crowd are here mostly for this band. The accessible nature of this band's music confirmed their status as headliners of this family-centric festival.

Words by Kris Aarre | Photos by Oli Duncanson





B I F O SEF. 19

> CLWB IFOR BACH, FUEL ROCK CLUB 21ST AUGUST 2016

THROWFEST



Coming over the bridge from Bristol is metal unit Heaven Asunder. Setting up in the corner of a stage less room the band are only separated by cables and monitors, but it makes for a more intimate and immediate impact. Ferocious metal riffs are on the menu and the 5 piece deliver them with confidence and aplomb. Matt Boyd's impressive range is overshadowed and drowned out by constant mic issues, but this is glitch only a sm rwise thrilling slo

Another local group now and back over to the furnace in Fuel for melodic hardcore newcomers Holding Absence. It's an emotional showing from the young lads with Lucas Woodland voice soaring and sounding far too big for a venue of this size. One of the biggest and best sets to take place in Fuel all day, with a powerhouse performance on the drums by Ashley Green who looks absolutely spent afterwards.

Continents take to the main stage and kick things off with the short and raw 'I' taken from latest album Reprisal. The band are a man down again but that doesn't stop guitarist and songwriter Darryl Sweet filling the room with huge slabs of riffs and technicality. Vocalist Phil Cross is in a pissed off mood today, he takes the time on stage to vent about the music industry and puts all the hatred and resentment into the final few songs. Everyone in the room vibes off his sentiments and cues a stage invasion during closer 'Pegasus, Pegasus' and the beatdown heavy 'II'. One of the sets of the day.

Due to Broken Teeth being late the nice guys in Create To Inspire swap slots and take their turn upstairs in the main room. What we like about CTI is on display for all to see today, melodic hardcore with balls and a passionate performance. Sean Midson's screams pierce through



THROWFEST











the monitors as the band bulk up the attack with scathing execution. It's a friendly atmosphere in Cardiff today as Midson takes and wears one punters hat for a song and gets into the front rows of the crowd. Having seen the guys a few weeks ago we couldn't wait to hear the new songs again and they sounded even better today.

Hacktivist come on late but instantly their set descends into chaos. People pile over onto the stage as the crossover crew deal deadly blow after blow. Undeniable groove and thick textured riffs prove to be the keys to success for the Milton Keynes group. The vocal trade off of J Hurley and Ben Marvin is executed with frightening ease as they instigate crowd surfers and sheer carnage in the pit, with the upstairs room full to the brim to witness something special.

After that spectacle and amount of fun it almost looks as if headliners I Killed The Prom Queen have it all to do. With the crowd tiring and Knuckledust on downstairs the Aussie metal veterans look like they would rather be anywhere else. In the midst of a european tour and this being the first UK date the band may be suffering from exhaustion as the set is fairly static even though the crowd, many who have been waiting for this moment for some time scoop up any enthusiasm they can. 'Sharks In Your Mouth' one of the best metalcore songs of the past decade sounds dated and it's actually the newer tracks off of last album Beloved that breathe life into the set and get the fans pumped. A disappointing end to an otherwise stellar day of all things hardcore, metal, punk and rock. Same time next year?

Words and Photos by Joshua Clarke





COHEED AND CAMBRIA

SUPPORT: LA DISPUTE & MEWITHOUTYOU

With the announcement of Coheed and Cambria's main stage appearance at Reading Festival 2016, the, now commonplace, warm up gigs were booked with the band playing a short run of three shows in the UK leading up to the festival. The first band of the evening was mewithoutYou. Their post-hardcore mixed with spoken word style seemed to go down a treat with the fans there at early doors, with a healthy congregation in the lower area of the Kentish Town Forum. There was a lack of onstage energy which may have been affected by the sound in the venue, that didn't even seem to reach the edge of the room.

Next up was La Dispute, which was seemingly more of the same style of music. Another post-hardcore, spoken word band, who encapsulate a lot of emotion in the performance of the vocalist. The most notable feature of La Dispute's set was the sensitive vulnerability of the lead vocals. When the instrumentals were a little drawn back, you could really latch onto the intense emotion of the lyrical content. As the evening progressed and the room filled out, the sound strength of the onstage sound improved drastically, and by the end of La Dispute's set, the front of house sounded huge and set the stage appropriately for Coheed and Cambria.

An unconventional start to Coheed and Cambria's set with acoustic song Ghost being played out by the two guitarists of the band on a pitch black stage with a spotlight on each person. The dulcet tones, and technical mastery of Claudio Sanchez's voice was apparent from the first note. A wonderfully captivating start. From then onwards, the band astound us with a skilfully selected mix of old and new, with songs from 6 of their 8 albums making an appearance. Their previous trip to the UK, touring The Colour Before the Sun seemed to lack songs from that particular album, but we were absolutely spoilt this time round, with over half of that album present in the set. The highlight of their set was their slow, emotional, engaging, chorus heavy song Peace to the

Mountain from The Colour Before the Sun. After a hugely energetic set, this song brought the set to a perfect cadence and wound down the audience into a perfectly fulfilled stupor. The band returned for an encore of three songs, latest single You've Got Spirit Kid snapped the audience out of their captivation, leading to a cover of Drain You by Nirvana and finally end of show staple, Welcome Home. An excellent showcase, from the band, for old and new fans alike. Coheed and Cambria never fail to amaze us in their huge live sound and pitch perfect melodic vocals.

Words by Kris Aarre | Photos by Joshua Clarke









THURSDAY

Arriving to the sight of glorious sunshine, spirits are high for this year's ArcTangent festival. Serving as a Mecca for fans of off-kilter, technically challenging, and truly eclectic blends of music, the four main stages (as well as a smaller one in the side of a truck, courtesy of Boss), are seldom less than packed throughout the weekend.

Instrumental Math Rock band Polymath blend prerecorded backing tracks with a varied sound. The gathering crowd are appreciative but still, largely owing to a lack of moments of reckless abandon and heavy hitting riffs.

Unfortunately Tangled Hair were forced to withdraw from the festival for undisclosed reasons, leading to a last minute stand in the form of Memory of Elephants, who really seized the moment to deliver an electrifying barrage of noise rock. Utilising amp feedback as an accoutrement to their big sounding riffs, the band bring some vitality to the early afternoon's proceedings. Running the gamut of post-rock inspired large space, challenging rhythmic interplay and count-the-frets riffing the band's energetic stage performance wins the audience, leading to some spontaneous outbursts of chicken dancing in the crowd.

Talons are the first of many out and out post-rock bands who will grace the various stages throughout the weekend, tempering the spacey soundscapes with some additional strings, serving to add an air of urgency and tension to the music. The interplay between the strings and guitars is intriguing, and they serve up some genuine head bang worthy riffs. They close with an up-tempo number that is surprisingly heavy, and are an early contender for set of the festival.

The Alarmist serve up a set of blissed out indie vibes that can only be described as a wedding band playing lounge versions of Aphex Twin.

Sheffield's Rolo Tomassi provide a set of the same blend of hardcore tinged with math and jazz freakouts they've been tinkering with for years now. Eva stalks the stage, alternating between crooning and yelping as the music demands. It's functional, but this far into their career it feels like they've got nothing left in their locker to show us.

The anticipation for Three Trapped Tigers is palpable, as the tent fills out before their gear can even be loaded onto the stage. The reception once they finally show is rapturous, as the hard hitting drums and copious synth work, coupled with the jerky rhythms are cheered on maniacally by the crowd. Interaction between the

musicians on the stage and the crowd are practically nonexistent, but it scarcely matters; the audience are there for a recital, and any awkward between song banter would only impede on that.

Axes riff based instrumentalism manages to mingle measured passages of relative calm with short sharp bursts of frenetic energy. Once again the crowd has its hands in the air.

So far the festival has been very vocal averse. Thursday night headliners Mono serve up another helping of big sounding post-rock that is becoming increasingly hard to swallow as the day rolls on. Emotive post-rock drenched in feedback and typified by unhurried build ups, the tent is once again full to bursting, but the general mood amongst the crowd feels muted. The set is frankly, just too monotonous.

As the darkness descends people retreat back to their tents to continue drinking into the early hours, it's then that the patter of rain begins, and sadly sets the tone for what is to follow for the remainder of the weekend.

FRIDAY

Spain's Viva Belgrado begin proceedings for a thoroughly miserable damp and rainy morning on the site as people rush to bunker down in the tent. Packing delay tinged hardcore screams that are occasionally punctuated with spoken word sections and long instrumental passages, there is a slight hint of Alexisonfire to their sound, or La Dispute.

Intervals are one of the first bands of the weekend to fly the flag for metal. Occupying a similar space to Animals as Leaders; instrumental songs paired with frequent jaw dropping fret histrionics, the sound of the guitars and bass are crystal clear. The songs move through different themes and feels, but always manage to feel connected.

Taking to the main stage, Agent Fresco: Re-composed offer a different take on Agent Fresco's songs, and feature members of Talons. Offering synths, strings, acoustic and electric guitars, the vibe throughout the set is one of eclecticism. Arnor Dan Arnarson gives an impassioned performance, and offers some insights into the background of the songs, such as plosions, a song about his recently deceased father, told from the perspective of his mother, adding an extra layer of pathos to proceedings.

Continuing to build their well-earned reputation for chaos, Heck proceed to lay waste during their set, playing

in a space clearly far too small to cope with their new found popularity of the back of debut album, Instructions as the crowd, which is ten deep outside jostle to get inside, or at the very least get a better view. Some problems with the vocals cutting out at irregular intervals are overcome by the sheer manic energy of the performance given by the members. As is probably expected at this point in time guitarists and singers Johnny Hall and Matt Reynolds fly into the crowd at some point. The broken foot incurred during their main stage performance at 2000 Trees clearly not an issue for Johnny. The pitfall of placing emphasis on energy over performance is the sound eventually suffers, and as such the band are not as good live as they are on record.

Grand Rapids, Michigan's own La Dispute grace the main stage to a huge welcome before launching into, the somewhat unorthodox choice of opener, All Our Bruised Bodies And The Whole Heart Shrinks before giving way to First Reactions After Falling Through the Ice. The set leans heavily on the band's most recent album, 2014's Rooms of the House, with a few choice cuts from the preceding album Wildlife. Crowd surfers fly overhead constantly, and an over-zealous stage invader provides some mirth for the audience. Possibly inspired by Heck's showing before them the pace rarely lets up as vocalist Jordan Dreyer bounces around the stage, rarely staying in the same place for long. HUDSONVILLE 1956 sounds massive with the audience participation, and closing track Kings Park climaxes in Wall of Death inducing carnage, overcoming the bewildering sight of bassist Adam Vass standing stock still with his back to the crowd for the entirety of their set.

Godspeed You! Black Emperor play a bumper 90 minute set to close out ArcTangent's second day, providing a mesmerising visual display to complement their shoe gaze, feedback drenched, post rock. The band were booked to play a two hour set, but elected to finish half an hour early with no reason cited. This felt like a slight to some members of the crowd who had been anticipating this set all day.

SATURDAY

Principally there to advertise the new Wasa Craft line of boutique inspired Boss guitar pedals and Roland's range of amps and drums, the Boss demo truck has played host to several acts throughout the course of the weekend, including Heck and Memory of Elephants. Foes manage to really sell the potential of the new gear line, performing some prog rock with metallic undertones, the flourishes provided on drums even manage to overcome the limitations of an electric drum kit, and the tight rhythmic interplay between that and the bass manage to get heads shaking in the crowd. Top marks.

Describing their sound as being akin to At the Drive In, hopes were high for Let's Talk Daggers, who begin their performance with a series of three chord punk numbers of the oi, oi, oi variety, with vocals reminiscent of Lower Than Atlantis' debut, putting them at odds with essentially every other band on the line up. The energy exhibited by the bassist attempts to list people out of their malaise but unmemorable songs punctuated by stock drum parts prove too large of a mountain to conquer.

Sounding like Mars Volta at their airiest, and actually providing a cover at one point Skyhitch provide a strong counterpoint to Let's Talk Daggers. They drift too far into smooth jazz jam band territory at times, but otherwise provide an enjoyable palette cleanser for the preceding act.

A heavy Deftones influence is evident for Leeds' Envoys, employing the Californians knack for drifting between crushing heaviness and lush sounding melodic passages. The bass hits like a truck throughout and the shifting uncertain rhythms, and strong quiet/loud dynamics maintain interest. The set proves bittersweet as the band announce the departure of their bassist for Canada shortly. Hopefully this won't prove to be the last that we hear of them.

Jangly instrumental math rock is the order of the day for Chiyoda Ku, with songs that have an effortless ebb and flow to them, building and building before exploding. Tight rhythms and a perfectly defined guitar tone, including some interesting use of a loop pedal to help layer the guitar sound up, which prompts one crowd member to shout, "you're very good" at them. Possibly the most polite heckle ever uttered. The band manage to prevent themselves from disappearing up their own collective arses by tempering the jazzy leanings with the occasional stand out rock riff.

With little fanfare, Belgian art-core mentalists Raketkanon manage to deliver the stand out set of the weekend. Crushingly heavy even without a bass player and some vocal histrionics, filtered through some interesting use of effects Pieter-Paul Devos' comes across as a bonafide star. Invading the crowd in a move that would make Heck proud, Pieter-Paul proceeds to aggro the cameraman and carry him through the crowd with him, all without dropping a note. The band on stage don't slouch during these sections either, infusing some psychedelic freakouts amongst the hardcore riffs, in a performance that oozes personality.

Not to be outdone, across the site Black Peaks provide some incendiary noise as well as some welcome cover from the rain, which currently looks like something from the Book of Revelations. In a year that has seen them release their first album, play two excellent sets at 2000 Trees, and support The Deftones at Wembley Stadium, it is fair to say this is a band very much on the ascent. The confidence is palpable too, playing a set of tracks from Statues, Will stalks the stage and alternates between rock star histrionics and encouraging circle pits, this is a band that are showing a marked improvement with every passing performance. The band sounds apocalyptic and by the time of set closer, Saviour, the audience are truly enraptured and the floor is utter carnage.

Providing a marked difference in sound Mewithoutyou provide some clean guitar tinged emotive jams punctuated with desperate energy. The slight bursts are split up by slower jams helping to keep the pace of the set measured. All in all it's a much more chilled out affair than the firebrand preaching of Black Peaks' Will Gardner, but this helps them feel more distinct.

Supergroup Mutoid Man again provide a departure from the established norm, such as it is at ArcTangent. Big dumb heavy metal riffs performed with passion and a cheeky wink and nod flair from guitarist and vocalist Stephen Brodsky make for a set filled with as many laughs as headbangs. Mashing up elements of stoner, thrash and hardcore with some hilarious banter really help them to stand out, and provide the perfect atmosphere for people to get on the hard stuff for the last hurrah!

Surrey math rockers and true cult heroes Meet Me in St. Louis take to the stage for one of the last times. The packed tent goes to great lengths to let them know they'll be missed, welcoming them with huge cheers. It is frustrating then that they are beset with sound issues at the beginning of their set, fortunately the crowd don't care, bulging and heaving, in time to the music, circle pits erupt, people rush to the front, crowd surfers flail overhead. This is everything vibrant and important about rock music, and is one of those sets that makes you remember why you fell in love with the genre in the first place. The highlight of the set has to be All We Need Is a Little Energon and a Lot of Luck, which has the crowd going appropriately apeshit. The set proves to be a bittersweet, but ultimately triumphant farewell to one of Mathrock's brightest stars.

Words byRobert Burns Photos by Grace Chapman-Duke











BORN OF OSIRIS

SUPPORT: VEIL OF MAYA, VOLUMES, BLACK CROWN INITIATE. AT 02 ISLINGTON ACADEMY.

London tech metal fans are treated to a night of blistering music as Sumerian Records brings Born of Osiris, Veil of Maya, Volumes and Black Crown Initiate to Islington academy as the last date on the Summer Alliance UK run before heading to the mainland.

First up hitting the stage are Black Crown Initiate. Considering it is their first time overseas, fans seem a bit unaware as to what this band is going to offer. The more tracks this band belted out, the more the crowd got stuck into their performance. Bringing together with good stage presence and technical writing ability, they mix a blend of death metal and progressive metal to produce melodic cleans with well-structured heavy, technical riffs to create an ear-pleasing mix to form a solid opening set. Definitely a band to keep your eye out for in the future.

Next up, and fresh from Vans Warped Tour are VOLUMES. Lets be clear, this band are not made to stand still... Straight from the off, energy exploded with their heavy groove orientated sound as this band kicked off, but after a while, everything just got a bit tedious. Dressed to impress any painter and decorator with sense of Hip Hop style, it was clear from the performance that new comer and vocalist MYKE TERRY knows how to control the crowd along with spending more

time off stage, getting right up in the fans faces, bringing a more intimate, up close and personal feel to the show! I feels the band could have played more songs from their older release Via as that's what a lot of the fan knew, But with their latest single FEELS GOOD, everyone in the crowd seemed pumped, screaming the words back at them before ending with WORMHOLES.

Now for the reasons we're all here... First of the tech metal titans VEIL OF MAYA. Kicking off their performance with intense energy, they primarily focus tonight on the release of their latest album Matriarch, which allows everyone to sing along as Lukas Magyar delivers clean vocals and screams with ease! The whole band tonight were on top form, and it's surprising to know that they're only main support for this legendary London venue! Ending their phenomenal set with Mikasa, the crowd lost their minds creating a pit worthy for this band! Veil of Maya could easily have filled up a bigger venue after tonight's performance.

The final band that Sumerian has to offer are BORN OF OSIRIS. This band brought a well polished performance, featuring songs from the latest album Soul Sphere, along with a few well known hits from Tomorrow We Die Alive. With keyboardist David DaRocha jumping from playing synth live to chaotically joining Ronnie Canizaro to formulate powerful duel vocals, this band really do put their all into tonight, and there is no denying the effort they truly showed, but unfortunately it wasn't able to live up to their predecessors.

Words and Photos by Robert Tilbury



We caught up with vocalist and guitarist Dave McPherson of InMe at this year's Macmillan Fest, a Nottingham based festival dedicated to raising money and awareness for those affected by cancer.

How are you doing? Are you looking forward to Macmillan Fest? I'm doing alright thanks, I'm feeling fresh and I think it's my fourth, maybe fifth Macmillan Fest, I'm good friends with Kris who organises the festival so it's always nice to be a part of it, I know it does it for all the right reasons. We're sandwiched in between Black Peaks who are one of my favourite bands and Sikth who are also one of my favourite bands and we're back on the main stage for the second time this year at Rock City which is one of the best venues in the world. It's growing. It's always growing which is great to see. It's a tough time for festivals, maybe because it's for such a good cause that It has so much more support, there's like 200 bands or something playing...ok, that's a bit of an exaggeration but there's so many bands and now they've leaked it into the main room at Rock City and I hope the festival goes from strength to strength and I hope it raises a ton of money.

Who knows, maybe in a few years Macmillan will be at the Motorpoint Arena just down the road from here! Yeah, but they'd probably have to ask a band a bit bigger than us *laughs* But you never know but we'd definitely say yes.

I don't think Macmillan would let you say no would they? No I don't think so.

You also headlined Fort Fest in Bedford recently, considering it's a new festival what was it like? They were really lovely people, they knew what they were doing and they've obviously chosen a great line up with bands like Black Peaks as well, Lonely The Brave and Young Guns, a lot of emerging and up and coming bands. They treated us better than we're used to being treated and we're used to being treated wonderfully, don't get me wrong but we got a three course meal in the farm, the sound was great and the crew were great, the lights were great, the set up area was great, we had a little room...posh loos and it was nice to hang out with Black Peaks and hopefully we'll get to hang out again today, they're just one of my favourite new...newer bands and I'm glad to see that they're doing well and that people are taking notice. But Fort Fest was good, it spat, the clouds spat a bit but it didn't bucket it down, I don't mind being rained on but I do mind walking around with trenchfoot.

Yeah, travelling here it was fine, but the time I got

to Nottingham I was like 'I should have brought a coat'. But it's not a big deal because it's all indoors. I've lived in this country 33 nearly 34 years, so I'm actually used to the weather, although some people never seem to get used to it.

I've been here all of my life and I'm still not used to it and yet somehow you came here by Pedalo on this 'amazing' wet day. Yeah, we routed this canal route...

It wasn't on the River Trent? Well actually in reality we had loads of time to kill and we didn't want to sit in a pub all day because that's dangerous and boring, so we found this huge lake at Willen Lake near Milton Keynes and it's got watersports and blah blah blah; we just saw the pedalo hiring bit Me and Gaz – the other guys were being really boring saying 'Oh well that's for children,' and we were like, we're actually the two oldest Me & Gaz.

But mentally, you are children. Yeah! Well, we never let that go. We just wanted to get on a pedalo and to be honest I'm a cyclist these days, I do a lot of exercise pretty much daily at the moment, I do a lot of mileage and that pedalo was a lot harder to pedal than a bike that was like a 90 degree...90 Degree?!

180 Degree? No 180 Degree would be straight up *laughs*. But it was hard with the water resistance so it wasn't all just fun and games riding in that red dragon, we broke a sweat and regretted wearing these jumpers as we had our life jackets over the top...we needed a shower.

You're celebrating your twentieth year as InMe in October and you're playing some quite intimate shows, The Tufnell Park Dome in London and The Rainbow in Birmingham being on that tour, was that the initial idea of the tour? To be honest, I don't think we have the same amount of clout as we used to. It doesn't hurt our ego to say that we're a little bit off the radar these days, so we're trying to change that next year because we've been independent for three years, which has been great as we've had total control but I don't think you can grow as much, as there's too much work and I'd rather we concentrated on the creative side rather than the logistical side of things. And it's not just us as a band, it's a tough time for touring bands, it's harder to get people into shows although our shows are doing pretty well but we'd rather play a packed out smaller venue over a quarter full bigger venue and I hate to say it but from a business perspective

It makes more sense for the promoter, you don't want people to lose money, you want everyone to be a winner.

Yeah of course! Playing to a packed out smaller venue looks better, doesn't it? Yeah. We did the Alien Ant Farm tour earlier this year, we played 17 dates and I think 16 of those dates were sold out, it was a very strong line up with The Dirty Youth supporting Alien Ant Farm with InMe, it worked really well and the venues we played in were bigger venues for us. We're not ahead of ourselves, we're not thinking 'well now lets go and play Brixton Academy'.

Although you've played the Islington Academy a fair few times over the past few years. We have, yeah! I suppose it is the 20th Anniversary and things are especially going well in London. Last year was the Overgrown Eden & White Butterfly albums in full. You'll get a lot of people that wouldn't go and watch a band play a mix but if they're playing an album in full I can go along and relive my teenage years, so that helped. This year we're looking into new management and new labels so we're going to give it another shot and the guys are going to take a step back from work, we're going to come together and be a proper band, a full time band again because it's been tricky to try and make it all work properly, you get what I mean?

I get what you mean. Speaking of playing a mixed set list tonight's show is a bit of a special one as you're giving the fans the choice for their favourite songs to be played and it's pretty much their own constructed setlist, so what was the idea being that? You know what, I'm not going to point any fingers but I had nothing to do with that. I just assumed that we would be told in advance what the popular votes were and I wasn't. we realised that we had one rehearsal left and to learn...we have six albums now so that's like, one hundred songs and you have to learn a song thoroughly, you don't want to play half arsed and mess up all of the lyrics and everything else. So, I just abandoned the idea last minute and chose what I thought would be a fan picked setlist, so it is just a very healthy mix but it has got the classic singles from the old days, it's got a few new tracks but we're only doing a 50 minute set.

Words by Alex Irons



Ahead of their crowd slaying set at ArcTangent festival, we caught up with bassist Lewis Reynolds and drummer Paul Phillips of Meet Me in St Louis to chat about their expectations after a 9 year absence, bands they're sharing a bill with, their dream line-ups, and Phil Anselmo.

How are you guys finding ArcTangent?

Lewis Reynolds (Bass): It's been fun, yesterday was really nice we had loads of fun last night, and then today's just been really wet.

After a 9 year absence how have you found the comeback reception?

Paul Philips (Drums): Really great, and totally overwhelming. All the reunion shows have been mad, the first show at the dome is one that stands out, 700 people singing, to the point where you could hear them over the music, it was just like, "wow!"

Lewis: We'd never experienced like that in this band before. Leeds was cool as well, as the Brudenell [Social Club] was like one of the first big [shows], and it's also just an amazing venue in general. Just walking out on the stage, after like 9 years and hearing everyone being like, "FUCK YEAH!" it was just amazing.

Are there any bands on the line-up this year that you guys are really excited for?

Lewis: Three Trapped Tigers, who played last night were incredible, and we're pretty excited to see Godspeed [You! Black Emperor], I imagine they're going to be pretty spectacular. Mewithoutyou should be pretty cool as well. American Football as well, are one of those bands you never thought you'd get to see, so they're high on the list too.

If you were in charge of your own festival line-up, which bands would you pick for it?

Paul: We'd all be putting on quite different festivals, bands like Adamski, Journey [laughter], Nebraska era Bruce Springsteen, anyone that's died this year; so Motorhead, Bowie and all that.

Lewis: We could also name some stuff we're listening to at the moment that we'd like to see at a festival, like Drake. We'd have Drake at every festival, on every stage! Metallica playing the first four albums, bring back Cliff Burton for Ride the Lightning [The album, not the song], Slayer playing the first three albums, Pantera, before we found out that Phil was racist.

Describe Meet Me in St Louis in three words!

Lewis: Twist, core, mentalists?

Paul: I also want to say Field Marshall Slug, I don't know what that is, but it came from a YouTube comment I saw one time.

How difficult would you say your music is to compose?

Lewis: Easy man, basically turn off any filters and go for it. It's really like writing any other type of music... except there's more of it! Instead of saying "ok, this is a song," we say, "ok, this isn't a song, until we've written another 5 songs and then, put those together, and then it's a song!"

Paul: We're basically just like a gushing tap. Those are the three words for the band! A broken tap!

Where did the idea to name your band's songs after movie quotations?

Paul: Pretentious waffle wasn't it? [laughter] I think it came from one of the guys saying "I am Champagne and you're shit" in practice, and the rest of us liking it and it kind of took off from there. Also when you're writing songs it's quite difficult to think up names to go with them, so doing it this way makes it infinitely easier!

Lewis: And you can have fun with it too, it became a sort of game for us. We were also impressed to see that someone had matched the references to the song names on our Wikipedia page, especially since You Damn Well Should was misquoted.

[The line is actually "Well, you damn well should"]

Do you guys have any plans for the rest of the year, or new music?

Paul: No plans for this band

So is this a one off reunion tour?

Lewis: Yeah we feel like this is it really. If we get offered that US tour slot supporting Drake, or Metallica and Cliff Burton then we'll do it!

They could get a hologram of Burton to play the tour with?

Lewis: I can fill in for Cliff! Behind the scenes while the hologram is on stage, man I'm into that.

Words by Robert Burns





PLINI

Following the release of his new album 'Handmade Cities', we caught up with Plini fresh from his performance at this year's ArcTanGent festival.

How did you find ArcTanGent? Had an amazing time! Was a little unsure how it would be playing last on the night, clashing with the festival headliner, but there were people spilling way beyond the tent and the vibe was excellent. Getting to watch Gojira side stage at Brutal Assault was a bit of a dream, and I spent all day watching sick bands at ATG!

Any crazy tour stories? In the small Italian town of Gorizia, we played an outdoor stage about half an hour after a ridiculous thunderstorm. Luckily the local crew had a hair dryer and quickly restored all the power outlets before we plugged into them!

How do you approach a festival set, compared to a regular tour set. Does the different type of gig affect your song choices at all? On this tour, we only had a support-band length of set prepared, which turned out to be the same as the festival set length anyway, so there wasn't much choice to be had! Luckily they all went over really well, even if the material was a lot less energetic than a typical festival band set.

What would you say people would consider being your most unlikely influence?

Taylor Swift

Are there any new artists you've been listening to at the moment? Who would you recommend? Disperse from Poland.

How do you approach writing such technically demanding music? I guess thanks to growing up listening to stuff like Dream Theatre, I can't help it!

Having recently released your album 'Handmade Cities', do you have any plans for your next release? I am already keen to start writing more, so who knows!

Words by Robert Burns





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ELITE: REVIEW



A Day To Remember - Bad Vibrations

ADTR Records | Release Date: 2nd September 2016

Returning with their highly anticipated sixth studio album 'Bad Vibrations', American rockers A Day To Remember fronted by Jeremy McKinnon bring a huge reputation and expectancy from fans across the globe with a previous back catalogue of tracks including 'All I Want', 'All Signs Point To Lauderdale' and 'The Plot To Bomb The Panhandle'. After a 3-year gap since their fifth studio album 'Common Courtesy', A Day To Remember have had a lot of time to re-group and produce a selection of intense musical compositions, but also showing flexibility in bringing something slightly different to the table;

This composition begins with self-titled track and 2nd single to be released from the album, 'Bad Vibrations'. The classic A Day To Remember intensity and raw musical nature is present throughout with the vocals, guitar riffs and drum melodies are very noticeable throughout this song and other tracks such as 'Paranoia', 'Justified' and 'Naivety', with the addition of more mellow, mysterious verses and rhythm sections.

This album might be difficult to get a grip on at first, but after a few listens you begin to appreciate the difference in approach that the band have taken on some of the tracks, and the hard work that has gone into producing this musical story. A Day To Remember have certainly showed why they are one of the powerhouses in the Music Industry at the moment!

Words by Kristofer Billingham





Against Me! - Shape Shift With Me

Total Treble | Release Date: 16th September July 2016

American punk rock band Against Me! are back from the brink of death with their latest 12 track record 'Shape Shift With Me'

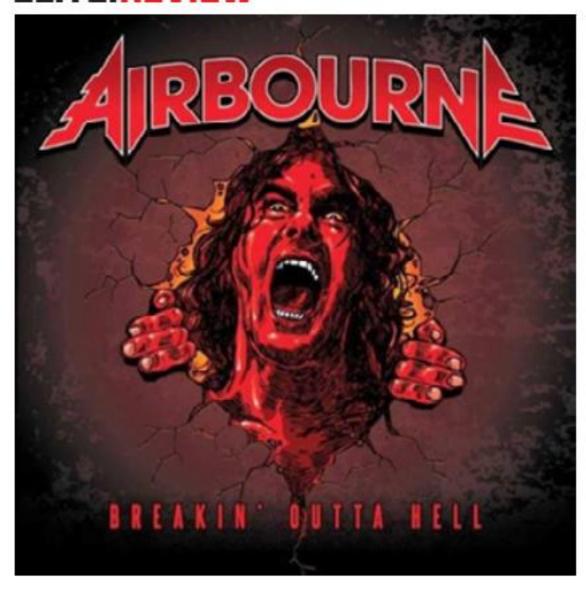
'Shape Shift With Me' is a follow on from 2014's 'Transgender Dysphoria Blues'. Front woman Laura Jane Grace dives into territories exploring love and her transition to female and ignoring the more political side of their genre, but hey, Who can blame Against Me! for wanting to write about the life changing situations they've been through in the past few years? But while all these territories are explored 'Shape Shift With Me' is more of an exploration of her sexuality since becoming a woman and the dissolution of relationships most noted in tracks such as Rebecca where Grace reflects on the breakdown of her marriage during transition.

Musically, 'Shape Shift With Me' is definitely slowed down and refined in comparison to 'Transgender Dysphoria Blues' but it seems to fit perfect with the coming to terms with initial emotions of the experiences this band have gone through. It's still a punk album and a very exciting one at that. Against Me! have truly gone back to their roots since being dropped by their label and it's a breath of fresh air.

Words by Sam Taylor



ELITE:REVIEW



Airbourne - Beakin' Outta Hell Spinefarm Records | Release Date: 5th September 2016

Firstly, we need to address the giant elephant in the room when it comes to Airbourne, as to not distract from this record's own merit. Airbourne sound a lot like AC/DC. There, done.

Breakin' Outta Hell is the fourth album from the Aussie boys and it harks back to everything that's good about classic rock. Overdriven guitar riffs, sassy vocals and catchy choruses. This album has all three of those in spades.

Title track Breakin' Outta Hell harks back to Whitesnake and Thin Lizzy, whereas other tracks such on the album bring elements glam rock and even a bit of Led Zeppelin, but Breakin Outta Hell is a coherent, cohesive record which doesn't alter pace throughout.

The record makes you want to whack on some tacky 80's clothing and air guitar for days. The youthful exuberance of the band brings a refreshing attitude and bite to an otherwise stale genre in the modern day. Airbourne are truly keeping rock and roll alive in 2016.

Words by Kris Aarre





Brujeria - Pocho Aztlan Nuclear Blast | Release Date: 16th September 2016

With sixteen years having passed since their last full length release, self-proclaimed Mexican druglords Brujeria, return to show just how versatile extreme metal can be.

Brujeria's ever-changing lineup hasn't affected their ability to write aggressive and invigorating material for their fourth album and Nuclear Blast debut, 'Pocho Aztla'n. Following suit, frontman Brujo sings everything in Spanish and with venom. Together with the running theme of tongue-in-cheek social commentary on Mexican life in America, their classic blend of intensity and fun remains. The cleaner and sharper production quality may have lessened the band's original rawness a little but the use of samples, such as the text message notifications on the galloping Angel de la Frontera and the stereotypical Mexican phrases on cheery singalong Mexico Campeon, actually enhance the band's sense of humour.

Unlike others of the genre, Pocho Aztlan isn't lacking in variety and creativity. The blast beats on songs such as No Aceptan Imitaciones, Culpan La Mujer and Satongo showcase the band's grindcore side, with the latter sounding like proof of the supposed Napalm Death connection. Plata O Plomo and Codigos have an almost groove-metal bounce to them whereas other tracks such as Bruja and Debilador take the groove even slower, almost into Eyehategod territory. Taking things full circle to show their punk roots, their twist on Dead Kennedys' California Uber Alles perfectly bookends the album's running theme.

Words by Jonathan Miller



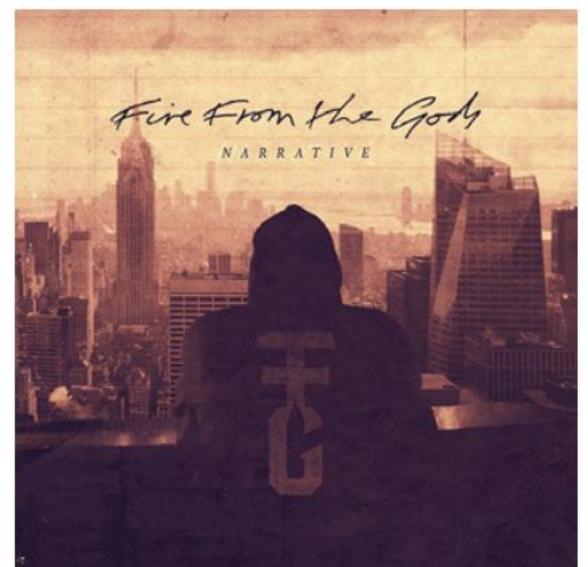


Dance Gavin Dance - Mothership
Rise Records | Release Date: 7th October 2016

Listen up everyone! Gavin is back! And you might think that after a very decent amount of output over the past ten years that they might be growing old. Fortunately the exact opposite is the case.

Their fifth LP album "Mothership" sounds younger and more refreshing than ever. Compared to the two previous albums "Acceptance Speech" and "Instant Gratification" "Mothership" is the result of every band member stepping up their game big time. This record has everything their previous work has, just more of it. Due to the vast amount of layering in their way of songwriting there is a lot going on during the tracks but the key points are still quite distinctive and easy to notice. Only rarely do they get lost in the cascades of rhythms and time signatures. Although their style has grown a lot more distinctive and crass the interaction between the instruments, the vocals and the multiple influences the interaction between all of them has gotten more fluid yet more obvious. Jazz melodies are written with a Post-Hardcore approach, progressive rhythms are glued together by widespread drums and lead by emotional screams.

Tilian's vocals, still high pitched and sharp like a razor blade, are dancing beautifully over the tracks always swinging between the most polished radio pop melodies and raspy, energetic and emotional chants. It is up to the listener to decide which one fits best. Either way this album, despite being chaotic, is a solid statement and far from being disappointing to fans of their previous work.



Fire From The Gods - Narrative
Rise Records | Release Date: 26th August 2016

Coming through on one of America's biggest and best labels, Rise Records, are newcomers Fire From The Gods.

'Public Enemy' starts off brightly with a hectic energy and raspy throated delivery from frontman AJ Channer. He has a fairly pedestrian vocal style but manages to compensate with infectious hooks. This carries on into 'End Transmission' which executes the loud/quiet dynamic quite beautifully leading into one of the choruses of the year. This album has had comparisons to the likes of Cane Hill and to be honest we can't see why, this album doesn't deal in refreshing brutality and originality, right from the start the origins of it are incredibly overamerican radio rock and falls into the complacent category that a lot of other US rock bands do.

This is by no means a bad record it just doesn't do anything to keep your attention fixated during its play time. There are moments on this record that look like it's about to go to some unchartered territory but then drifts off onto the same track many before it have wandered down. Channer is a man who has been constantly on the move throughout his life and speaks of his experiences, his Jamaican descent seeps through on 'Excuse Me' with a Caribbean tinge to his delivery. There's definitely something here to build on for Fire From The Gods.

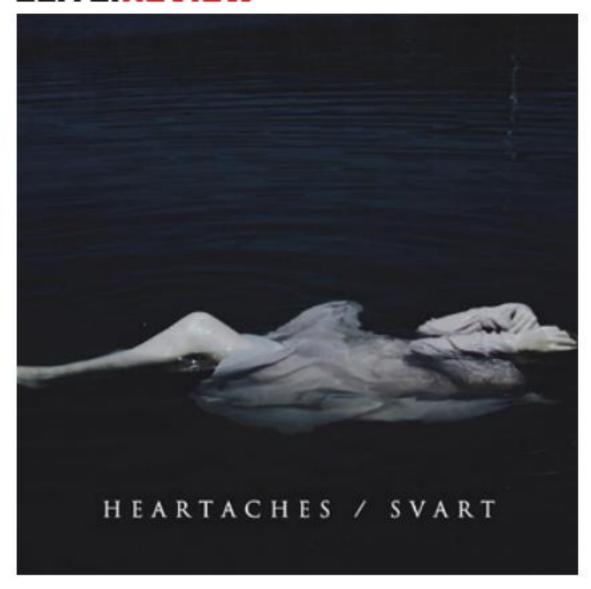
Words by Joshua Clarke



Words by Niklas Benedum



ELITE:REVIEW



Heartaches - Svart

Artery Recordings | Release Date: 12th August 2016

One of the freshest names on the Artery Recordings roster, Swedish unit Heartaches are anything but shy in making a name for themselves from the get go. Debut EP 'Svart', which in the band's home country loosely translates as meaning "black", smashes into your face the Heartaches imprint, and you'll want it to stay long after the six tracks are over.

Their broody calamity of a presence is here in spades from the first few moments of first track proper, 'Backyard Tree'. It's all rather Sworn In-esque, except their elements of depression have been extracted, further claustrophobic catastrophe has filled the void, and it's all been turned up to 11. If you haven't been bent and battered into a euphoric state of decimation with the likes of 'The Process' and 'Ruthless', the feature of Traitors vocalist Tyler Shelton in curtain closer 'Deathlist' will have you in a dazed submission and begging to hit the replay button to go through it all over again.

Put simply, 'Svart' is easily one of the heaviest debut EPs that you'll see throughout all of 2016, and should come with a warning sticker of inducing some major bangover.

Words by Zach Redrup





Heaven Shall Burn - Wanderer Century Media Records Release Date: 16h September 2016

Having started off as one of the leading metallic straightedge bands in the European H8000 scene, Heaven Shall Burn have since become synonymous with the melodic death metal/deathcore genre. On their eighth full length studio effort 'Wanderer' they manage to experiment with styles while keeping their musical roots intact. As always, the band's charm and identity mostly radiates from Markus Bischoff's demonic and harsh vocal stylings. When mixed with atmospheric synths on the likes of opening track The Loss of Fury and their take on gothic metal song, The Cry of Mankind (My Dying Bride), the boundaries between melodic deathcore and black metal get blurred.

Strong guitar melodies are another mainstay that features frequently throughout Wanderer. The vibrato mid-section of Downshifter is especially memorable, conjuring up images of fans chanting the melody with arms aloft, made even more powerful by an additional keyboard countermelody. Guest vocals by George "Corpsegrinder" Fisher (Cannibal Corpse) immediately make Prey To God the record's stand out track, with the individual styles of Fisher and Bischoff complimenting each other as the music moves in and out of gindcore blast beats and slow crushing drumming mixed with shredding and chugging guitars. Despite being guilty of some overused production techniques, Wanderer is another record that'll please Heaven Shall Burn fans and maybe even gain them some new ones.

Words by Jonathan Miller





Norma Jean - Polar Similar Solid State Records | Release Date: 9th September 2016

If it wasn't already cemented beforehand, 'Polar Similar' has unquestionably secured Georgia metalcore kings Norma Jean as a rare beast. The record, the seventh in the band's career, never falls short of ideas, and keeps the Norma Jean style true whilst maintaining a character of its own aside its older brethren within the discography.

'Everyone Talking Over Everyone Else' is one of the record's best, and a firm choice to enter future set lists, 'IV. The Nexus' outshines any of their previous album closers in grandiose terms, and 'Death Is A Living Partner' is classic Norma Jean without sounding stale or recycled.

What also marks 'Polar Similar' as a milestone record for the band is that it's the first release in which no original members remain in the ranks. Following guitarist Chris Day stepping down last year, vocalist Cory Putman (who joined in 2004) is the longest standing fixture today, and despite now in his 40s, pulls out a career best performance.

Take note, Norma Jean are still the godfathers of metalcore, and with almost two decades past since their formation, they're still showing the newbies how it's done.

Words by Zach Redrup





Of Mice & Men - Cold World

Rise Records | Release Date: 9th September 2016

After taking the scene by the scruff of the neck on Restoring Force, Of Mice & Men need new record Cold World to elevate them to the next level. Can they sit alongside their peers and touring partners in Linkin Park and Slipknot?

The album starts in subdued and brooding fashion with the Aaron Pauley led 'Game Of War'. The record doesn't really pick itself up from this mood either as the guitar tone lacks bite and its heaviest moment comes in the form of 'Pain'. It's scathing and scratchy riffing was something we were really digging upon its release, but disappointed to find it's the only track of its kind on Cold World. Songs like 'Relentless and 'Like A Ghost are more streamlined and refined but have had their balls cut off, leaving a pale imitation of efforts that the band have mustered up before.

Restoring Force was the beginning of something special from a band with a lot of promise and a star in Austin Carlile, however Cold World has left us feeling cold towards it. It's one step forward and several giant leaps back for Of Mice & Men.

Words by Joshua Clarke



ELITE:REVIEW



SikTh - Death of a Dead Day 10th Anniversary Re-Release Peaceville | Release Date: 30th September 2016

SikTh are household name, being one of those bands that have helped influence so many bands of the 21st Century including Enter Shikari, Periphery and many others. Their debut album in 2003: "The Trees Are Dead & Dried Out. Wait For Something Wild" brought them into the limelight, introducing mental time signatures, twin vocalists as well as a technicality and progressivemetal genre that hadn't been seen previously. Their sophomore album "Death of a Dead Day" (2006) developed this sound that little bit further, focusing on a heavier, more organising sound and still to this day, is a classic album. To mark the tenth anniversary of the album, the band have re-issued and re-mastered the album as well as add a couple of demos for songs such as Flogging The Horses, Part of the Friction and Where Do We Fall.

In terms of how different this album really is from its predecessor, there isn't a lot of difference bar the songs just sounding remastered; however, no matter how many times I listen through this album – it's always going to be up there as one of my favourites as the thought of "holy shit, this band are insane" is just as prominent as it was all those years ago. Part of the Friction is undoubtedly the best song on the album, as it showcases SikTh's ability to mix melodic and emotional riffs with heavy, prog-metal esque vibes. If you've slept on sikTh for all these years, this album will be a good introduction – especially if you're a fan of technical, fast-paced, erratic music.

Words by Jack Simmonds





The Lounge Kittens - Sequins & C-Bombs
Self Released | Release Date: 16th September 2016

Since 2012, The Lounge Kittens have enchanted audiences around the country (including performances at Download, Glastonbury and Sonisphere) with their fun and upbeat lounge versions of rock, metal, punk, dance and hip hop classics injected with a humorous edge. Now is your chance to listen at home as they unleash their debut album Sequins & C-Bombs. Tackling songs from everyone from Usher to Metallica to Toto with a gleeful spirit, Sequins & C-Bombs is nothing but a joy to listen to and while lounge versions of popular songs may have ben done before (Richard Cheese for example), The Lounge Kittens do it with their own style, vigor and of course the right amount of humour and that humorous edge is littered throughout the album, you only have to listen to the Kittens brilliant version of House Of Pains Jump Around to hear this. Songs tackled such as AC/ DCs Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap, Marilyn Mansons The Beautiful People and Poison by Alice Cooper are transformed into catchy lounge standards complete with irresistible three part vocal harmonies and aside from the use of keyboard and a few well placed samples that is all you need. Each song on the album is given The Lounge Kittens golden touch and they make every track their own, (you've definitely never heard Rammstein like this before) and they even manage to make a Mumford & Sons song sound good with a stirring version of The Cave! The two main highlights on an album packed full of them have to be a heartfelt rendition of David Bowies Changes and a sublime medley of Prodigy songs entitled Smack My Firestarter To Outer Space that has to be heard to be believed! The Lounge Kittens have captured the fun of their live show on this album and it is done with a love for the music and in turn sounds extremely infectious.

Words by Gavin Brown







THU 24 MANCHESTER CLUB ACADEMY
FRI 25 GLASGOW GARAGE
SAT 26 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY2
SUN 27 BRISTOL MARBLE FACTORY
MON 28 SOUTHAMPTON ENGINE ROOMS
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KRAM

Assembling in early 2016 from a garage in Walton near Leeds, two piece KRAM spotlight a heavy grudge and punk rock sound, inspired by bands such as Slaves and The Melvins with an occasional touch of Radiohead. KRAM are well known for having a load intense sound making their live performances definitely worth a watch! Be sure to check out their debut demo single 'Wobblestomper'.



CARNAL ERA

London hardcore band, Carnal Era came together together through their mutual love and appreciation of hardcore, math rock, post rock and screamo. The band have some exciting times ahead, with plenty of shows announced and their first official release due later in the year. Be prepared!

www.facebook.com/carnalera www.soundcloud.com/the-carnal-era

I, THE DREAMER

I, The Dreamer hit the scene earlier this year with their debut single 'Battle Scars' taken from their upcoming EP 'Shadow Hearts'. Having recently released an awesome Punk Goes Pop style cover of 'Cold Water' by Major Lazer Ft. Justin Bieber, the band are proving themselves to have a successful future ahead. Certainly ones to watch!





THE VILLAGE

Self-proclaimed pink sock wearing trilby hatted troubadour Phil Matthews, otherwise known as The Village, has built up a following around the Midlands live circuit winning hearts and minds with his performances. Having performed with many bands over the years, The Village has so far racked up 1000's of downloads and has had his music played on over 200 radio stations worldwide.

www.theVillage.me.uk www.facebook.com/PhilMatthewsa.k.a.theVillage www.twitter.com/theVillage9

BRUCE BEATS

Meet Bruce Beats! Producer of stripped back chilled & moody hip hop, featuring some of the finest vocal & lyrical talents from the UK & US.

Introduce yourself! Who are you and where did it all begin? Hi, I'm Bruce Beats. I started producing Hip Hop back in Huddersfield in late 2012.

How would you describe your sound in just 3 words? My sound in 3 words? Chilled, Hip, Hop!

What has been your biggest highlight as an artist so far? The greatest moment of my career so far has to be the release of my debut record "21|12". From that point on I could see the impact my music can have & I knew my music was appreciated on both sides of the Atlantic. Too many PRO's to list!

Looking back at every song you've ever written as an artist, which is your favourite to play and why? When I look at my catalogue I will always pick out NOIR NOIR as one of the standout tracks. That track went from me sitting in front of my Mac making song writing Vlogs to THEE most pivotal song in my career within like 6 weeks, it's the definitive Bruce Beats sound 100%.

If you could play at any festival in the world, where would you pick? Notting Hill Carnival is a goal, but if we're talking dreams it would be Coachella!

Who are your biggest musical influences? Most of my biggest inspirations aren't actually hip hop producers. I'm very selective about the rappers I listen to & more often enough I pay more attention to the rappers that have more eclectic & unique beats on their records. Pharrell, Jaden Smith, Kendrick Lamar, Amon Tobin, J Cole & Bonobo are the stand outs.



If you could form a 'super group' with any other bands/ artists, who would you pick? My super group would be MYSELF (logically), Pharrell, Lenny Kravitz, Dustin Kensrue & Dennis Lyxzén. I'm pretty sure they wouldn't gel but I can only dream!

What would be your ideal tour line-up? My ideal tour line up would be J Cole, Frank Ocean & Yeezus himself Kanye West because he brings out the biggest artists on tours, so that's my cheat for a bigger line up!

What can we expect to see and hear from you in the future? Well since 21|12 dropped last December we've been working very hard behind the scenes. So the big news is, 21|12 Deluxe Edition is coming this Autumn/ Winter. There's so much left to do but I've got new videos and singles in the pipeline that I just can't wait to share. It's so hard to not share this stuff with people, believe me!



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